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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 24th Day of *May* 1781.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland*.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 24th Day of *May* 1781, and concluded the 4th *June*, said year.

I.

The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 24, 1781.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great

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Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum quartum diem Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debitè observetur; atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei,* Georgii Comitis de Dalhousie, *quod ad summum munus rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ conventui Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et authoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter presentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula per dicto* Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, *in hac commissione prosequenda legitime facta, seu fieri ordinata nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius*

audientes

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audiences se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo quarto die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, septimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentisimo et octogesimo-primo, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-primo. Per signaturam mann S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and well-beloved, we gree tycu well. The uniform experience we have had of your steady and unwearied zeal, in pursuing the great objects for which you are assembled, by the most strenuous exertions to support the cause of true religion and sound morality, and to suppress all impiety and licentiousness, makes us embrace, with the utmost satisfaction, this fresh occasion of assuring you of our ready concurrence with you in every thing that may tend to the advancement of purposes so essential to the happiness of our people. Such conduct in you cannot but confirm our fixed resolution to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full possession of all its rights and privileges.

Your endeavours to promote the practice of real piety, of brotherly love, and Christian benevolence, will be much enforced by the example we are confident you will

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hold forth, in carefully avoiding all unavailing altercations and animosities in the course of your deliberations; and we trust that the wisdom of your councils will continue to be solely directed to the restraining of every species of vice and immorality, to the encouragement of virtue, piety, and obedience to all legal authority, as the only means to insure the peace, order, and happiness of the community, and the everlasting welfare of each individual.

The knowledge we have of the loyalty and fidelity of our right trusty and right well beloved cousin, George Earl of Dalhousie, hath induced us to appoint him again to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly. We felt an additional satisfaction in this appointment, from a persuasion that this choice would be most pleasing to you, as he hath given so many proofs of his abilities to discharge the duties of this high office, and of his zeal for the prosperity of the Church of Scotland.

There only remains to express our hopes, that the same spirit of harmony and concord will continue to influence your proceedings in the business before you, will produce the same good effects as it hath done in former Assemblies, and bring this meeting to as happy a conclusion: And so we bid you heartily farewel.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1781, in the twenty-first year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

(Signed) STORMONT.

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III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE gracious letter, with which your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the national Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to so distinguished a mark of Royal favour.

We bless the King of kings, that we live under the government of a Prince who is the nursing father of the Church, who affords the ministers of the gospel the countenance of his authority in pursuing the great objects for which we are assembled, and whose approbation they can in no way so effectually obtain, as by their strenuous exertions to support the cause of true religion and sound morality, and to suppress all impiety and licentiousness. We receive the assurance of your Majesty's concurrence with us as a most honourable reward of our past labours, and a most powerful encouragement to persevere, with a steady and unwearied zeal, in advancing purposes so essential to the happiness of your people. We rely, with entire confidence, on the declaration of your Majesty's resolution to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full possession of all its rights and privileges; and we trust, that, through the grace of the Almighty, our conduct will continue to confirm this resolution in your Royal breast.

We shall endeavour, by diligent study, regular example, and earnest ministration, to promote the practice of real piety, brotherly love, and Christian benevolence; and we shall be careful to hold forth these most essential virtues of our holy religion, by continuing to avoid all unavailing altercations and animosities in the

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the course of our deliberations; trusting that our councils, directed by such a spirit, will tend, through the blessing of God, to restrain every species of vice and immorality, and to encourage virtue, piety, and obedience to legal authority, which we are convinced are the only means to ensure the peace, order, and happiness of the community, and the everlasting welfare of each individual.

The appointment of the Right Honourable the Earl of Dalhousie, to repesent your Royal Person in this Assembly, we consider as a fresh and signal instance of your Majesty's favour. We are not only satisfied of his loyalty and fidelity, from your Majesty's frequent and public approbation of his conduct; but we have had ourselves the most certain and pleasing experience of these virtues, as also of his great abilities to discharge the duties of this high office, and of his zeal for the prosperity of the Church of Scotland.

We beg leave to return our most grateful acknowledgments to your Majesty, for your attention to the propagating Christian principles, and the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It shall be our endeavour to apply your Royal donation in such a manner as may best answer your Majesty's pious and generous intention.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall study to answer the hopes which you are pleased to express, by maintaining the same spirit of harmony and concord, which hath procured to former Assemblies the honour of your royal approbation, without which we are sensible that the good effects of our meeting must be in a great measure defeated.

That the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ may protect your person, prolong your days, and continue your reign in the hearts of a dutiful people; that, through the divine blessing upon your arms, peace may speedily be restored; that the Almighty may power down his choicest gifts upon our gracious Queen Charlotte, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that your Majesty, after being long preserved the watchful guardian of religion and liberty, may receive the rich unfading crown, laid up for eminent usefulness,

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fulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. These are the earnest prayers of,

May is please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

WILL. DALRYMPLE, *Moderator.*

IV.

The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty on the birth of another Prince, and on the present situation of public affairs.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the national Assembly of the Church of Scotland, humbly beg leave to approach your throne, to express our firm attachment to your person and government, and to assure you, that the sentiments which we entertain are the sentiments of the people committed by Providence to our charge.

With the most lively joy and heartfelt satisfaction, we have beheld the increase of your Majesty's family in your Royal Offspring; an event which, while it contributes to your Majesty's domestic felicity, must, on that account, give pleasure to all your loyal subjects; but which, in a particular manner, must be felt as of the utmost national importance, by encouraging us to hope for a long continuance of those civil and religious blessings, which, as

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British subjects and Protestants, we have hitherto enjoyed under the government of your illustrious house.

The tumultuous outrages, which, under the mask of religious zeal, have disturbed the peace of your Majesty's subjects, filled us with the deepest concern; and we heard with abhorrence the name of our holy faith prostituted to encourage acts of violence, which were adverse to its principles, and forbiden by the precepts of our blessed Redeemer.

While your Majesty was engaged in a necessary, though expensive war, against the ancient enemies of these realms, and against your own rebellious subjects, in support of the honour, dignity, and just prerogatives of your Crown; we have seen with indignation your ancient allies, who ought to have been united to your Majesty by the closest ties of religion, civil interest, and gratitude, not only refusing to supply your Majesty with such succours as by treaty they were bound to give, but even affording their assistance to your enemies, to enable them the more effectually to pursue hostile measures against your Majesty. We rejoice in the success which it hath already pleased the Almighty to bestow upon your arms, in chastising their perfidy. We indulge the hope, that this success may be a mean of opening their eyes, and of renewing the friendship which, to the mutual advantage of both nations, so long subsisted between Great Britain and the States of Holland: And we confide in the wisdom of your Majesty's councils, under the divine Providence, for bringing the present bloody and destructive war to a happy issue.

In the mean time, we consider it to be our peculiar duty, at this juncture, to cherish the loyalty and affection to your Majesty, and the zeal for the success of your arms, which prevails among all ranks in this part of your dominions; and to impress those over whom we have influence with a due sense of the blessings they enjoy under your Majesty's government, and of those duties of charity and brotherly love which they owe to each other, and to their fellow Christians.

That the Lord of Hosts may go forth with your fleets and armies; that he may crown your arms with victory; and that your Majesty may long reign over a free, happy,

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py, and united people, is the sincere and ardent prayer of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

WILL. DALRYMPLE, *Moderator*.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr William Dalrymple, one of the ministers of Ayr, their moderator, all the ministers who are members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tongue, Mr James Oliphant at Bower, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr Patrick Bennet at Polmont, Mr William Tait at Kilbucho, Mr Thomas Gibson at Kirkurd, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Invereſk, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr John Lundie at Oldhamstocks, Dr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, Mr Philip Redpath at Hutton, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Thomas Somervill at Jedburgh, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Steven Oliver at Maxton, Mr Thomas Smith at Cummertrees, Mr John Dow at Canonby, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortoun, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr

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Mr John Scott at Twynholm, Mr John Graham at Kirkinner, Mr James Mochrie at Colmonell, Mr George Smith at Galston, Mr George Lawrie at Loudon, Mr Robert Boog at the Abbey Parish of Paisley, Mr Robert Bell at Strathaven, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Mr William Anderson at Gorbals of Glasgow, Mr James Olyphant at Dunbarton, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Robert Thomsom at Killean, Mr Dugald Campbell at Glassary, Mr Donald M'Nicol at Lismore, Mr Normand M'Leod at Morvern, Mr James Bisset at Caputh, Mr Andrew Williamson at Argnosk, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Dunning, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, Mr Robert Stark at Kinross, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Samuel Martin at Monymeal, Dr Harry Spens at St Andrews, Professor George Hill there, Principal Gillespie there, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, Mr John Snodgrass at Dundee, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logiepert, Mr John Hutchieson at Fettercsso, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr James Gordon at Cabrach, Mr William Paterson at Logie, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr William Smith at Pettie, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskine, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr Donald Munro at Lochcarron, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, and Mr Alexander Hossack at Jura and Colonsay, ministers; Mr John Russel junior writer to the signet, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, John Sinclair of Freswick, Esq; Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, Robert Bakie of Tankerness, Esq; Thomas Dundas of Fingask, Esq; William Honyman, Esq; advocate, Bailie William Thomson, Edinburgh, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Conveener James Craig, Edinburgh, Captain Taylor, Queensferry, Provost Robert Clark, Linlithgow, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, the Lord Chief Baron, the Lord President, Charles Brown of Coalstoun, Esq; Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick, George Buchan-

Hepburn

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Hepburn, of Smeaton, Esq; advocate, Robert Sinclair, Esq; advocate, Mr Matthew Sandilands writer to the signet, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. the Lord Advocate, Thomas Turnbull of Know, Esq; the Earl of Lauderdale, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh, Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; advocate, Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw, Esq; Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet, Mr William Chalmers surgeon in Edinburgh, George Cranston of Dewar, Esq; Bailie James Torry, Edinburgh, Professor Andrew Dalzel, William Wallace of Sauchrie, Esq; sheriff of Ayr, Conveener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Professor Dugald Stewart, Robert Cullen, Esq; advocate, the Earl of Hyndford, Mr Alexander Bell merchant in Edinburgh, Professor John Anderson, Glasgow, Professor Hugh M'Leod, Glasgow, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. James Colquhoun, Esq; younger of Luss, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, Donald M'Lauchan of M'Lauchlan, Esq; Dr James Williamson, Mr Allan M'Dougall writer to the signet, Professor Adam Ferguson, Niel Ferguson, Esq; advocate, Sir John Belches, Bart. William Muirhead of Herbertshire, Esq; Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, James Balmain, Esq; Solicitor of Excise, Major John Melvill of Cairnie, Mr John Erskine advocate, Dr Andrew Duncan physician in Edinburgh, Mr Richard Lake writer to the signet, Mr Alexander Hart depute clerk to the High Court of Justiciary, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the signet, James Cuningham of Hyndhope, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, Mr John Tawse writer in Edinburgh, Professor Thomas Gordon, Lord Westhall, Mr John Taylor writer to the signet, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer in Edinburgh, Mr Francis Grant preacher of the gospel, Mr Ludovick Grant, junior, writer in Edinburgh, Simon Fraser, Esq; advocate, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to

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the signet, Andrew Crosbie of Holm, Esq; advocate, the Procurator for the Church, and John M'Kenzie, Esq; younger of Applecross, ruling elders, to be a committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevelancy of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed

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agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of their designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Commitee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also impower the said committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they

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they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lye on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay

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lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And impowered the committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discusing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Rev. Dr William Dalrymple, one of the ministers of Ayr, their moderator; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr George Rennie at Creech, ministers, Mr John Russell junior writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dornock, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Tongue, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, ministers, Mr John Mossman, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr James Oliphant at Bower, Mr John Morison at Canisbay, ministers, John Sinclair of Freswick, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Baillie Daniel Miller, in Canongate; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews, Mr James Alison at Holm, ministers, Robert Baikie of Tankerness, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Thomas Dundas of Fingask, Esq; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Falconar at Stromness, ministers, William Honyman, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Bryce at Kirknewtoun and East Calder,

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Mr Robert Fisher at Collington, Mr James Craig at Currie, Dr David Johnstone at North Leith, Mr John Kemp Edinburgh, Mr Robert Walker junior at Cramond, ministers, Thomas Hog, Esq; Bailie William Thomson, Mr David Johnstone, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Hon. the Lord Provost and Conveener James Craig; from the University of Edinburgh, Dr Andrew Hunter Professor of Divinity there; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Patrick Bennet at Polmont, Mr John Knox at Slamannan, Mr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, ministers, Captain Taylor in Queensferry, and Bailie Napier in Linlithgow, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clerk; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr Archibald Stewart senior merchant there; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr William Tait at Kilbucho, Mr John Bradfoot at Dunsyre, Mr John Thomson at Walstone, ministers, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Gibson at Kirkurd, Mr William Welsh at Mannor, ministers, the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr John Goldie at Temple, Mr William Paul at Newbattle, ministers, the Right Hon. the Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr Francis Cowan at Gladesmuir, Mr Patrick Carfrae at Moreham, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Lundie at Oldhamstocks, Mr John Ewart at Whittingham, ministers, George Buchan Hepburn of Smeaton, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Robert Sinclair, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Dunse, Dr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse. Mr John Sked at Abbay, ministers, Mathew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr Philip Redpath at Hutton, Mr William Redpath at Edrom, ministers, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr William Simpson at Morebattle, ministers, the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr

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Mr Robert Muirhead at Southdean, Mr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, Mr Alexander Gordon at Kirkton, ministers, Thomas Turnbull of Know, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Right Hon. the Earl of Lauderdale; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, ministers, Mr Patrick Wetherstone tenant in East Moriston, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Stephen Oliver at Maxton, Mr Thomas Robertson at Selkirk, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith at Cummertrees, Mr John Craig at Kirkpatrick-Fleming, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dowe at Canonby, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, ministers, Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortoun, Mr John Robertson at Kirkonell, ministers, Mr Thomas Harkness in Mitchellslacks, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr John Williamson at Tinwall, Mr William Burnside at Dumfries, ministers, Mr Robert Jackson printer in Dumfries, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr John Gillespie at Ketts, Mr John Scott at Twynholme, Mr Nathaniel Mackie at Balmaclellan, ministers, Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers Surgeon in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr John Graham at Kirkinner, Mr John Ingles at Kirkmabreck, ministers, Mr Patrick Dickson tenant in Blairbowie, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wigton, George Cranston of Dewar, Esq; from the burgh of Whithorn, Bailie James Torry merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Stanrawer, Mr James Mochrie at Calmonell, Mr Robert Callender at Kirkmaden, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Stranrawer,

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Stranrawer, Conveener John Lindsay Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr George Smith at Galston, Mr William Peebles at Newtoun of Ayr, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; and Mr William Wallace sheriff of Ayrshire, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Mr Dougal Stewart Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr George Laurie at Louden, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, Mr Thomas Brisbane at Dunlop, ministers, Bailie John Parker merchant in Kilmarnock, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Robert Boog at the Abbay parish, Mr John Forrest at Port Glasgow, Mr John Finlay at Paisley, ministers, Bailie John Orr manufacturer in Paisley, ruling elder; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr Robert King, eldest bailie of the burgh of Renfrew; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Bell at Strathaven, Mr David Connell at Kilbride; Mr Laurens Wells at Shotts, ministers, Robert Cullen Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Mr James Ferguson at Pettinain, ministers, the Right Hon. the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Mr Alexander Bell merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr John Telfer at Kilsyth, Mr William Anderson at Gorbals, Mr James Forlong at Rutherglen, ministers, Professor John Anderson and Conveener John Jamieson, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Professor Hugh M'Leod; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, Mr James Oliphant at Dumbarton, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun Esq; younger, of Luss; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Hossack at Jura and Colonsay, ministers, Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, Mr Solicitor General; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale,

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Knapdale, Mr Dugald Campbell at Glassary, ministers, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Donald M'Nicol at Lismore, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Torosay, Mr Norman M'Leod at Morvern, ministers, Allan M'Dougal of Gallanich, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr James Bisset at Caputh, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethindie, Mr James M'Laggan at Blair Athol, Mr John Scott at Kinclaven, ministers, Professor Adam Ferguson and Niel Ferguson, Esq; advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Andrew Williamson at Arngosk, Mr David Dow at Dron, Mr David Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, ministers, Sir John Belsches, Bart. and Mr John Caw Dean of Guild of Perth, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, ministers, William Muirhead of Herbertshire, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Dunning, Mr John Wright at Trinity Gask, Mr William Graham at Fossoway, ministers, Bailie James Gentle brewer in Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr David Davidson at Kippen, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, ministers, Professor William Richardson at Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Stark at Kinross, Mr Thomas Fernie at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, ministers, Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant there; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldie, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Thomas Hardie at Balingry, Mr John Usher at Kinghorn, ministers, James Townsend Oswald of Dunnikeir, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldie, Mr James Fergus merchant there; from the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; Solicitor of Excise; from the burgh of Dysart, Mr John Erskine advocate; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Mr Samuel Martin at Monymeal, Mr Robert Arnot at Ceres, Mr Thomas Spankie at Falkland, ministers,

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William Peaſton of Soutra, and James Walker of Daſtmiln, Eſquires, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Carnie; from the preſbytery of St Andrews, Dr Hary Spens profeſſor of divinity, Mr Robert Dalglieſh at Ferryparton-Craigs, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Profeſſor George Hill, miniſters, Dr James Flint, profeſſor of medicine, and Mr Thomas Ballardie ſhipmaſter in Anſtruther Eaſter, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan phyſician in Edinburgh; from the univerſity of St Andrews, Principal Gilleſpie; from the preſbytery of Forfar, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, Mr James Lyon at Glammis, miniſters, George Dempſter of Dunnichen, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dundee, Mr John Snodgraſs at Dundee, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouſe, Mr Alexander Straban at Strathmartine, miniſters, Mr Andrew Pitcairn writer in Dundee, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, miniſters, Mr Richard Lake writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Hart clerk to the High Court of Juſticiary; from the preſbytery of Brechin, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logiepert, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, miniſters, Alexander Burnet, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Fordoun, Mr John Hutchieſon at Fetteresſo, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr Alexander Thom at Glenbervie, miniſters, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Bervie, the Hon. Sir William Auguſtus Cunnyngham of Livingſton, Bart.; from the preſbytery of Aberdeen, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Mr John Fullarton at Drummoak, Mr Robert Dunbar at Oldmachar, Mr James Sherriffs at Aberdeen, miniſters, James Cuningham of Hyndhope and George Strahan-Keith, Eſquires, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Kincardine O'neil, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr John Ramſay at Strahan, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, miniſters, Mr William M'Donald of Rinettan, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Alford, Mr James Gordon at Cabrach, Mr Robert Lumſden at Kildrummy, Mr Thomas Tait at Auchindore, miniſters, Mr John Tawſe writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the

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presbytery of Ellon, Mr William Paterson at Logie, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garrioch, Mr Alexander Stewart at Lesly, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsamond, Mr John Shand at Kemnay, ministers, the Right Hon. the Lord Westhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Fraser at Tyrie, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, ministers, Mr John Taylor writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr John Cooper at Glass, ministers, the Hon. Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr James Thomson at Aberlour, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Elgin, Mr Francis Grant preacher of the gospel; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr David Miln at Dollar, ministers, Bailie Duncan Grant in Forres, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant junior writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, ministers, Hugh Rose of Kilravock, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Malcolm Nicholson at Kiltarlity, Mr William Smith at Pettie, ministers, Simon Fraser of Taralarrie, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, ministers, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr James Grant at Laggan, ministers, Colquhoun Grant, Esq; writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, ministers, Andrew Crosbie of Holm, Esq; ruling elder;

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elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr. Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Munro at Uig, ministers, the Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr Donald Munro at Lochcarron, ministers, John M'Kenzie of Applecross, Esq; ruling elder; and the General Assembly added thereto the Rev. Mr William M'Gill, one of the ministers of Ayr, in place of the moderator; and also added those gentlemen whose commissions were rejected by this Assemby on account of informality, viz. from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr William Dow at Blairgowrie, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, ministers, and Mr Patrick Alison of Newhall, ruling elder, to be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorm, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and conveen within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejuice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes,

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causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproven of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly,

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ſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners, particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions, relative to the ſettlements of vacant Churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any preſbytery or ſynod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lye over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch preſbyteries or ſynods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And the Aſſembly doth further impower and direct the ſaid Commiſſion, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redreſs of the grievance of patronage, in caſe a favourable opportunity for ſo doing ſhall occur during the ſubſiſtence of this Commiſſion: And that in

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passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VII.

Interim act anent licensing Probationers.

THE General Assembly, in consequence of an overture from the synod of Merse and Tiviotdale, having taken into their serious consideration the dangerous consequences that would arise to this Church, if presbyteries were allowed to receive on trials young men who have never studied Divinity at an University, did, and hereby do, strictly prohibit all presbyteries from following such a practice; and ordain that this prohibition shall have the force of a law till next General Assembly.

VIII.

[*The General Assembly re-transmits to presbyteries the following Overtures, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.*]

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of elders, it should be enacted, That no minister should set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there

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there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

X.

Overture anent licensing Probationers.

THE General Assembly, taking into their serious consideration the danger that ariseth to this Church, and to the souls of people, by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and considering that the several acts made by former General Assemblies, lye so scattered in many separate articles, at great distances from one another, that the directions therein given are in danger of being overlooked by presbyteries: Therefore the General Assembly, collecting what appears to them most material in former acts, ordain, That the following regulations shall be strictly observed by presbyteries in all time coming.

1*mo*, That no presbytery admit any person to probationary trials, but such as are found to be of good report, of sufficient learning, of sound principles, of a pious, sober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the government in Church and state, and of whom they have sufficient ground to conceive that they shall be useful and edifying in the Church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that without respect of persons, such as are esteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly-minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godliness, be kept back from that sacred work.

2*do*, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licensed, but such as have produced to the Professor of Divinity at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full course of philosophy at the College, and who have either given close attendance on

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on the divinity-hall for the space of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of the presbytery as students of divinity; or, if their circumstances did not permit them to give close attendance on the hall, have continued to prosecute the study of divinity for six years, and have in that time delivered the usual number of discourses; provided also, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3tio, The General Assembly, considering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of such as follow the study of divinity, do earnestly recommend to the presbyteries, professors of divinity, and ministers and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on such students, during the terms above specified. And further, that when any student comes to attend the professor of divinity in any university, he shall produce to the professor, and to the minister of the parish where he is to reside, during the time of his attendance on the profession, a testimonial from the minister of the parish from whence he comes; and when he leaves the profession, he shall carry back testimonials from the minister of the parish, of his grave and suitable behaviour becoming his character; and from the professor, testimonials certifying the same, and also his regular attendance on the diets of the profession, and the time he has attended. And when any professor of divinity shall think fit to recommend a student, in order to probationary trials, his testimonials shall certify his proficiency in his studies, and his moral character.

4to, The General Assembly do appoint and ordain, That no presbytery admit any student to probationary trials, except such as have resided within their bounds for the space of six months, or do produce to them sufficient testimonials from the presbyteries in whose bounds they have lived, or for the most part resided, expressing, that it is the desire of these presbyteries that these students should be entered upon trials. And such students as come from abroad, shall produce satisfying testimonials from the professors under whom they studied; and the time of their being abroad shall be accounted a part of the six years; but none of these students shall be entered

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upon trials for the ſpace of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5to, When any ſtudent is propoſed to a preſbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the propoſal ſhall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the ſaid ſtudent's qualifications and behaviour; and the preſbytery ſhall be alone when the propoſal is made and judged on: And the General Aſſembly enjoins all ſtudents to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the miniſters of the preſbytery where they reſide, and where they are to paſs trials.

6to, When the preſbytery, after ſerious enquiry and mature deliberation, ſhall agree to take the propoſed candidate on trials, they ſhall examine him ſtrictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he poſſeſſes the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications neceſſary for a preacher of the goſpel.

7mo, The General Aſſembly appoints the ſame method to be obſerved, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any preſbytery recommend a ſtudent to paſs trials in another preſbytery.

8vo, The General Aſſembly do alſo appoint and ordain, That the terms above ſpecified being expired, and teſtimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the preſbytery, before they preſcribe any part of public trials, ſhall write letters to all the preſbyteries within the bounds of the ſynod, acquainting them with their deſign, two months at leaſt before ſitting of the ſynod; and at the next meeting of the ſynod, they ſhall alſo acquaint the ſynod thereof, and obtain their ſpecial judgment and advice in that particular; and, that the members of the ſaid preſbytery and ſynod may be ripely adviſed thereanent, the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid letters to be duly and carefully tranſmitted to the ſeveral preſbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the firſt diet of the ſynod, to lye on the table till the ſecond or ſome ſubſequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any perſon have any thing to object againſt the ſtudent's being entered on trials for preaching the goſpel. Provided always, That in any part of this Church, when ſynods meet

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meet but once a-year, a student may be proposed to the synod half-a-year sooner than would have been competent if the synod had met twice a-year.

9*no*, The General Assembly recommends to presbyteries, that before any student is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Assembly 1711, of such as are to be licensed, be read to them; and that the presbytery take promise of them, that they will subscribe to, and particularly observe the same, in case the presbytery see cause to licence them; and that this promise be recorded in their books.

10*mo*, The General Assembly appoints the public probationary trials of students, who are to be licensed probationers, to be the following, *viz.* 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in presence of the presbytery, and that previously to all the other parts of public trials. 2. A homily in English on a Scripture text. 3. An exegesis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and sustaining a thesis and dispute thereon. 4. An exercise and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular sermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church history, especially the history of our own Church. *Lastly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11*mo*, The General Assembly, judging it fit that the same method shall be followed in all presbyteries as to questions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licensed; and that the said probationers should not only give sufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the sacred ministry, but also come under the strictest engagements to adhere to and maintain the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church: Do therefore enact and appoint, That the questions appointed by act 10th 1711, be put to all such as pass trials; and likewise that they shall subscribe the *Formula* set down in the said act, before they be licensed to preach the gospel. And the General Assembly strictly prohibits the licensing any person whatsomever, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*; and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12*mo*,

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That the questions appointed by act 10th 1711, be put to all such as pass trials; and likewise that they shall subscribe the *Formula* set down in the said act, before they be licensed to preach the gospel. And the General Assembly strictly prohibits the licensing any person whatsomever, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*; and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12*mo*, When any presbytery, who, with the synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with that student, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students from any other presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13*tio*, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licensing any probationer.

14*to*, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the professors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students in a public meeting annually, at such time, in the month of January, as to them seems most convenient. And all presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts: And it is strictly enjoined, that visitors of presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several presbyteries do observe the same.

IX.

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IX.

[*The General Assembly re-transmits to presbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.*]

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of Elders, it should be enacted, That no minister should set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 22d day of May, in the year 1783.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART,
JOHN DRYSDALE, } *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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TABLE of the printed ACTS of the General Assembly, held in the year 1782.

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INDEX or ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1782, which are not printed at full length.

May 23. 1782. *Sess.* 1*st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr William Dalrymple, minister of the gospel at Ayr, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the ministers and elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr William Dalrymple, Dr Joseph M'Cormick, minister of the gospel at Prestonpans, was chosen Moderator; and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable George Earl of Dalhousie, to represent his Majesty's Royal person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to the Assembly read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech, at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech, in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious letter.

The same Committee named to draw up an address to his Majesty, on the present state of public affairs.

Recommended to those brethren who shall be called upon to pray at to-morrow's diet, to be particular in their thanksgiving to Almighty God for the late signal success he has been pleased to grant to his Majesty's arms.

A Comittee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from diets

diets thereof, naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1782. *Sess.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1782. *Sess.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the committee for overtures called for; the same was given in and read over.

An objection, by the magistrates of Aberdeen, to the commission from the presbytery of Aberdeen, in favour of Mr Alexander Fullerton, heard; the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the commission.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Queensferry heard; the Assembly sustained the objection, and ordered the commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Lauder heard; the Assembly sustained the objection, and ordered the commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commission from the burgh of Dunfermline delayed, till the report of the committee for bills should be read.

The

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The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The draught of an address to his Majesty, on the present state of public affairs, which had been approven of by the committee appointed to prepare it, was produced and read. Another draught, which had not been agreed to by said committee, but being read by a member in his place, and transmitted *simpliciter* by the committee for overtures, was also produced and read. And the question being put; which of these should be adopted, it carried that which had been approven of by the committee; against which several members dissented.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

Resolved to consider on Monday the commission from the burgh of Dunfermline, after that the cause anent the settlement of Arrochar, and next to that the cause of Mr M'Intosh minister of Moy, and on Tuesday the cause of Carsphairn.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The committee for overtures impowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective synods or presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

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May 27. 1782. *Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, respecting the decision anent the address to his Majesty.

Report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Report of the committee for overtures produced and read.

Agreed to consider on Thursday overtures from the synods of Perth and Stirling, Fife, Glasgow and Ayr, Galloway, Lothian and Tweeddale, and Angus and Mearns, respecting the moderation of calls; and immediately after that the overture from the synod of Fife, respecting the definition of a call.

Synod books called for; the synod books of Fife, Aberdeen, and Ross produced; an excuse offered and sustained for the absence of the synod book of Angus and Mearns; none of the other synod books were brought up; resolved that the reasons for their absence be enquired into.

Delayed the cause of Arrochar till to-morrow, to come in after the cause of Carsphairn; and agreed to hear the cause of Mr M'Intosh on Wednesday, and the cause of Evandale to-day, immediately after that of Mr Hutton.

An appeal of Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline, against the kirk-session of Dunfermline, for refusing to attest his commission from the burgh of Dunfermline, to represent the said burgh in this Assembly, heard; the commission sustained.

An appeal of John Hamilton of Collinhill, and others adhering to him, parishioners of the parish of Evandale, against a sentence of the presbytery of Hamilton, sustaining a call to Mr John Scott to be minister of said parish, heard; the appeal dismissed, the sentence of the presbytery of Hamilton affirmed, and they appointed to proceed to the settlement of the presentee with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A

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A committee appointed to consider the application from the people of Noriston.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at half past seven, and the committee for revising commissions at seven.

The committee on the window and house tax renewed, with the former powers.

Resolved to consider the cause of Fenwick first on Wednesday; having been before last Assembly, therefore entitled to a preference.

A committee appointed to consider the reference from the presbytery of Biggar, and another from the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting marriages.

A committee appointed to consider the memorial from the presbytery of Perth, respecting the hospital of Perth.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1782. *Sess.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the committee for overtures called for, the same was given in, and read over.

A reference by the synod of Galloway, respecting a libel brought before the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, at the instance of John M'Millan of Holm, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families in the parish of Carsphairn, against Mr Robert Affleck preacher of the gospel, presentee to the said parish, heard; the first, second, third, and fourth articles of the libel sustained as relevant, and remitted to the presbytery of Kirkcudbright to be admitted to proof, and to proceed in the affair according to the rules of the Church; the fifth article of the libel found not relevant.

An appeal of Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Baronet, undoubted patron of the parish of Arrochar, and Mr John Gillespie, his presentee, and of the presbytery of Dumbarton, against a sentence of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, referring a sentence of the said presbytery, sustaining a call to the said Mr John Gillespie, instead of affirming the same; the counsel for the appellants passed from the appeal; agreed to take up the cause upon the synod's reference; the sentence of the presbytery

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presbytery of Dumbarton, sustaining the call to Mr Gillespie to be minister of the parish of Arrochar, affirmed, and the presbytery appointed to proceed to his settlement with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

The committee on new erections appointed to meet to-morrow in the Assembly-house, at half an hour after ten.

Agreed to take in the cause anent the chapel of Dunfermline to-morrow, after the two causes already appointed, if there is time, and to consider on Friday the cause of Crossmichael, and Mr Lawson's cause.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1782. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent from the resolution of Assembly upon the subject of addressing his Majesty on the state of public affairs given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly to consider the reference from the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, respecting irregular marriages, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday next.

The report of the committee on new erections called for, given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the petition of the people of Noriston called for, given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Saturday.

The committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the usual powers; new members added.

A reference from the presbytery of Irvine, respecting the settlement of Mr William Boyd, presentee to the parish of Fenwick, heard; the request of the presbytery of Irvine rejected, and the presbytery enjoined to proceed to the settlement of Mr Boyd, the presentee, according to the rules of the church, on or before the 25th day of June next; and all the members of presbytery required to attend, and to report to the Commission in August.

Agreed

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Agreed to take in the cause of Mr M'Intosh on Friday.
The committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet at half past ten o'clock to morrow.
Adjournment.

May 30. 1782. *Sess. 7th.*

Sederunt.
A new commission produced.
The report of the committee for classing overtures given in, and read, from which it appearing, that forty presbyteries have approved of the overture respecting the licensing probationers, the Assembly resolved to consider said overture first on Saturday.
The overture anent the ordination of elders retransmitted:—*Vide Printed Acts.*
Resolved, That all motions and amendments of motions for the future be given in to the Assembly in writing, previous to their being voted on.
The Procurator's and Agent's accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.
A committee appointed to consider the overture from the synod of Moray, and likewise the overture from the presbytery of Penpont.
Agreeable to the resolution of Monday last, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the synods of Perth and Stirling, Fife, Glasgow and Ayr, Galloway, Lothian and Tweeddale, and Angus and Mearns, concerning the moderation of a call; and, after reasoning, two motions were made and seconded; *1st*, That the Assembly declare, that the moderation of a call is agreeable to the immemorial practice of this Church; but not having sufficient evidence laid before them, that any presbyteries have departed so far from established usage, as to lay aside the moderation of a call in the settlement of a minister, dismiss these overtures as at this time unnecessary; and, *2d*, That the Assembly declare, that the moderation of a call in settling ministers is agreeable to the immemorial and constitutional practice of this Church, and that it ought to be continued: The question being put, the second motion carried, and the Assembly declared accordingly.

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The overture from the synod of Fife, respecting the definition of a call, withdrawn by the members of that synod, with leave of the Assembly.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half past ten o'clock, at desire of the Moderator of that committee.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1782. *Sess.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The committee on the overture from the synod of Moray appointed to give in their report to the Commission of this Assembly, which is authorised to take in and consider said report, and do therein as they shall see cause.

An appeal of James M'Intosh in Garbit, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families, of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie, against a sentence of the presbytery of Inverness, refusing to give effect to a former sentence of deposition of Mr James M'Intosh, minister of these parishes, in respect the same had been appealed by him to the synod of Moray, and neither reversed nor affirmed by them, heard; the appeal dismissed as inept; and the synod of Moray specially enjoined to judge finally in the appeal from the sentence of deposition of Mr M'Intosh, and to bring up their synod books, and all the original minutes relating to this whole affair, to next General Assembly, with certification; and recommended to the presbytery of Inverness, in the mean time, to take care that the ordinances of religion be dispensed to the parishes of Moy and Dalarossie.

An appeal of Alexander Gordon of Culvennan and Greenlaw, Esq; patron of the kirk and parish of Crossmichael, against a sentence of the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, delaying the settlement of Mr John Johnston, Mr Gordon's presentee to that parish; also an appeal of Mr James Murdoch, preacher of the gospel, presented by the Crown to said parish, heard; remitted the cause to the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and appointed them, in case the competition in the civil

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civil court shall not be determined by the twelfth day of August next, to proceed towards the settlement of Mr John Johnston, Mr Gordon's presentee, according to the rules of the Church, with all convenient speed; and, in the mean time, to go on with the previous steps: The presbytery of Kirkcudbright expressly prohibited from excluding from judging those members of their committee who moderated in the call to the said presentee.

At reading the minutes of last sederunt, upon a motion, agreed, that the resolution of last sederunt, respecting the moderation of calls, should, for the satisfaction of all concerned, be converted into a declaratory act, and printed among the Acts of Assembly. *Vide Printed Acts.*

The committee on the window and house tax to meet on Monday next at half past ten in the Exchange Coffee-house.

The cause of Mr James Lawson referred to the Commission.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1782. *Sess.* 9.

Sederunt.

Mr Lawson's cause appointed to be first taken up, and considered by the Commission.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum received by him; and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 64 : 4 : 9½ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, agent for the Church; and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 6 : 13 : 7 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

The account due by the clerks to Mr John Balfour and Co. stationers ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money given in and read, and approved of by the Assembly. The Procurator authorised to pay off the debt due to Mr George Trail, before he pay any of the other creditors.

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tors. All the new applications refused *in hoc statu*, on account of the situation of the funds; and likewise, that none of them have been made in proper time, agreeable to act of Assembly 4th June 1763, leaving to those gentlemen to apply again, when the fund will admit of giving them aid if at the time their situations require aid. Resolved, that for the future, the Assembly will adhere strictly to the foresaid act of Assembly respecting all new applications.

Upon a motion by a member of the committee appointed to consider the state of the Church's public money, and which was unanimously agreed to, the Moderator, in name of the Assembly, rose up to return their sincere thanks to Mr Ludovick Grant junior, writer in Edinburgh, for the care and attention he had paid to these funds for several years past; and earnestly to entreat him to persevere in his diligence and attention to that affair; but Mr Grant not being in the House, resolved to return thanks to Mr Grant when he should be present.

Act authorising the Procurator to uplift and discharge certain sums of money from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, which had been put into the hands of their treasurer, to be paid when demanded by the Assembly.

Act authorising the Procurator to uplift and discharge what ballance may be due by Mr John Gray clerk to signet, and Mr Henry Davidson solicitor in London, of the sum of L. 110, put into their hands by the late Procurator, for the purpose of defending the presbytery of Biggar, in a process brought against them by the late Dr Dickson of Kilbucho.

The report of the trustees of the widows fund produced, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of members. The thanks of the House given to Dr Webster by the Moderator, in name of the Assembly, for his care and attention to the said fund.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the petition for the people of Norisson called for, given in, and read, and approven of by the Assembly.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register called for, the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee

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Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The report of the visitors of the synod-book of Fife called for, given in, and read. The Assembly refuse to attest it, on account of the remarks of the committee; and recommend to the synod to send up their book corrected to next Assembly.

The synod-books of Ross and Aberdeen ordered to be attested.

The window and house tax committee appointed to meet in the Assembly-house, at half past ten on Monday, in place of the Exchange Coffee-house.

The memorial and petition for the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The report on the memorial anent the hospital of Perth called for, given in, and read, and unanimously approven of by the Assembly.

A reference from the synod of Fife, anent the Chapel of Ease in Dunfermline, heard. The Assembly agree in declaring, &c. that it is implied in the 5th clause of the regulations respecting said Chapel, that the persons who form the congregation at the Chapel are subject to the jurisdiction of the kirk-session of Dunfermline; and, in pursuance of the true meaning of that clause, it is hereby provided, That the minister of the Chapel of Ease shall regularly intimate to the session-clerk of Dunfermline the time of his administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper three weeks before it: That the session-clerk shall, within the space of eight days thereafter, transmit to him a list of those parishioners who are under scandal; and that the minister of the Chapel shall be at liberty to give tokens, for admission to the Lord's Supper, to such of his congregation as he judges worthy of being received to that ordinance, excepting only the persons contained in that list. The session-clerk is further ordained to transmit to the minister of the Chapel, from time to time during the year, the name of every person who falls under scandal, and who is absolved from it: And the minister of the Chapel is at liberty to baptize the children of any person belonging to his congregation, who does not appear to be under scandal.

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Proceeded to consider the overture anent licensing probationers; and, after reasoning, enacted the same into a standing law of this Church, to be published and and printed among the Acts of Assembly.—*Vide Printed Acts.*—Against which enactment three members dissented.

Adjournment.

June 3. 1781. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The account of Mr James James Dickson, printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee on the window and house taxes given in and read, and unanimously approven of by the Assembly; agreed that the Moderator should write letters of thanks, in the Assembly's name, to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of Exchequer, and the Lord Advocate for Scotland; and, at the Assembly's desire, the Moderator also returned thanks to Dr Carlyle, for his attention and diligence in this matter.

Reasons of dissent against the enactment of the overture anent licensing probationers given in and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

The report of the committee appointed by last General Assembly, to consider regulations proposed by the presbytery of Edinburgh for correcting some abuses complained of in the solemnization of marriages, given in and read: The Assembly approved of the report, and, agreeably thereto, did, and hereby do, enjoin a strict observance of said regulations.

REGULATIONS.

1*mo*, That no marriage shall be celebrated, unless when there shall be produced to the minister a certificate, subscribed by the precentor or session-clerk, that the banns have been proclaimed; and every certificate must bear not only the names, but designations and places of abode of the several parties.

2*do*, When the parties reside in two different parishes, there must be produced a certificate from the precentor,

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centor, or session-clerk, of each parish that the banns have been proclaimed in each parish church.

3*tio*, Until persons have resided for the space of six weeks complete within a parish, they are not to be considered as residenters, nor entitled to proclamation in the church thereof, but must be proclaimed in the church of the parish where their ordinary residence was previous to their proposed marriage.

4*to*, No precentor, or session-clerk, shall grant a certificate of proclamation in behalf of any parties, unless he can attest upon proper evidence, *for which he shall be answerable* that they have resided for the space of six weeks within the parish; that they are unmarried persons, and not within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity.

5*to*, The certificates of proclamation shall be in the following terms:

FORM I. For two parties residing in one parish.

That (here insert his name, designation, and place of abode), *and* —— ——, *daughter of* —— ——, *have resided in this parish for six weeks preceding the commencement of the proclamation; that they are unmarried persons, and not within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity, has been certified to me, upon satisfying evidence, for which I shall be answerable; and that the above parties have been proclaimed in order to marriage, and no objections offered, is attested by* —— ——.

FORM II. Where one of the parties only reside in the parish.

That (here insert the bridegroom's name, designation, and place of abode), *has resided within this parish for the space of six weeks preceding the date hereof; and that he is an unmarried person has been certified to me, upon satisfying evidence, for which I shall be answerable; and that he and* —— ——, *daughter to* —— ——, *of the parish of* ——, *have been regularly proclaimed in order to marriage, and no objection offered, is attested by* —— ——.

N. B. The above form, *mutatis mutandis*, to be used when the bride only resides in the parish.

6*to*,

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6to, The ministers of the presbytery of Edinburgh agree, that in future they will celebrate no marriage, except when the preceding regulations are strictly complied with: and the presbytery enacts and ordains accordingly.

The presbytery also appoints a copy of these regulations to be sent to all the ministers of the communion of the Church of Scotland, whose ordinary residence is within their bounds, with a letter from their clerk, requiring that they likewise shall comply with these regulations.

The presbytery farther appoints a copy of them to be transmitted by their clerk to every kirk-session within their bounds, in order to their being inserted in the session-books; and the several kirk-sessions are hereby ordained to see them strictly carried into execution; and as irregularities have been chiefly complained of in the city of Edinburgh and suburbs thereof, the ministers of Edinburgh, and of the parishes immediately adjacent, are enjoined to be particularly attentive that their respective session-clerks do, in all respects, comply with the preceding regulations.

And, *lastly*, the presbytery ordains a copy of these regulations to be inserted in the several Edinburgh newspapers, for the information of the public.

The report of the committee on erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands given in and read. The committee continued, with additions thereto.

A petition for the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, craving a collection for the purpose of defraying the expence of translating and printing the Bible in the Gaelic language, heard; and a collection through all the parishes in Scotland ordered by the Assembly.

The report of the visitors of the Commission record given in and read, and the Commission's conduct approven: The Assembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commission for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them; and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions for them, given in and approved of.

The

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The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, &c. containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

All cauſes before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, and cauſes remitted by former Aſſemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commiſſion, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Proteſtations admitted.

A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read; the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer and ſinging a pſalm.

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[*Omitted, in the Index to the last year's printed Acts, the following part of an Overture from the synod of Perth and Stirling.*].

WHEREAS the receiving extra-judicial papers into the proceedings of superior judicatories, and founding decisions upon them, is highly irregular, injurious to the rights of inferior courts, and of dangerous consequence to the interests of individuals, and particularly the admitting private letters of non-residing heritors and others, never before the inferior judicatory, and sustaining the same, in place of a call regularly authenticated, is directly contrary to the rules of this Church, confirmed by immemorial practice, of fatal tendency to the interests of religion, and derogatory to the authority of presbyteries, who have, in the first instance, the only right of judging in the settlement of vacant parishes: For remedying and preventing these abuses, the synod of Perth and Stirling humbly overture to the General Assembly, that, in conformity to the fundamental constitution of this Church, they will be pleased to resolve and enjoin, that no papers or evidence whatever, not offered to the inferior court, shall be received at discussing any appeal or complaint; but that, when any new matter or evidence occurs which the parties judge of importance, the cause shall be remitted to the inferior court. The Assembly finding this part of the overture unnecessary, as what it proposes is already sufficiently secured by the standing rules of the Church, agreed to dismiss it; and did, and hereby do, dismiss it accordingly.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 22d Day of *May* 1783.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland.*

M,DCC,LXXXIII.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *May* 1783, and concluded the 3d *June* said year.

I.

The King's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 22. 1783.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal

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Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimo secundo die Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei,* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos tenore præsentium, nominasse, constituisse et ordinasse, sicuti nos tenore præsentium nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus memoratum fidelissimum et dilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et authoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto* Davide Comite de Leven, *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime facta, seu fieri ordinata nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque, subditis nostris, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, cujuscunque, gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps durante hac subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare*

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nuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium præsentibus, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, quinto die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-tertio, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-tertio. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. Having the most entire confidence in your duty, loyalty and affection to Our Person and Government, and being convinced of your unwearied attention to the cause of Virtue, Piety, and Religion, We take this opportunity of assuring you of Our fixed purpose and resolution to support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, in the full enjoyment of all its Privileges as by Law established.

Convinced that you bring with you the best intentions for promoting the happiness of my Government, and the true interest of the Church whereof you are members, We have great satisfaction in countenancing your present meeting with Our Royal Authority.

As the preventing the growth of Popery, so repugnant to the constitution of my Kingdoms, and the suppressing all vice and immorality, so destructive to Christianity, are objects which will distinguish your zeal in the advancement of true Religion, and in all which you will always meet with my steady concurrence; so the avoiding all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst yourselves will be equal proofs of, what We have hither-

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to experienced, your great prudence, wisdom, and moderation.

As you cannot but be highly sensible of the benefits which will arise from the inestimable blessings of Peace, We make no doubt but you will think that an humble gratitude is due to Almighty God for these and other Mercies which His Divine Providence has lately vouchsafed to Us.

We are persuaded that you will conscientiously discharge your duties to the people committed to your care, by infusing such principles into their minds, as their holy Religion dictates, and which are the best adapted to the security of Our happy constitution, and their and Our most valuable interests both here and hereafter.

We have appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well belowed Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland, so that Our choice of him cannot but be agreeable to you. And We trust that this meeting will be concluded with the same unanimity and brotherly affection which have distinguished your former Assemblies. And so We bid you heartily farewel.

Given at Our Court at St James, the 5th day of May 1783, in the twenty-third year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

NORTH.

III.

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III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious letter to this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to this renewed proof of your Royal favour.

Your Majesty's confidence in our loyalty to the best of Sovereigns, and in our attachment to the interests of religion, we feel as a most pleasing recompence of our past conduct; and your Royal assurance that it is your fixed purpose and resolution to support this Church in all its privileges, we consider as a most powerful incitement to persevere in fulfilling your Majesty's desire.

May it please your Majesty to accept our most affectionate gratitude for this fresh proof of your goodness in countenancing our present meeting with your Royal authority.

To prevent the growth of Popery, at once so repugnant to the constitution of these kingdoms, and to the holy and beneficent spirit of the Gospel, is an object worthy of our constant zeal; and to this, together with the suppressing of all vice and immorality; we resolve, in the strength of God, to exert our strenuous endeavours; animated to so good a work by the declaration of your Majesty's steady concurrence. In this honourable employment, and in avoiding all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst ourselves, permit us to hope, that your Majesty's experience of the prudence, wisdom, and moderation of former Assemblies, will be received as a pledge of our firm purpose to cultivate the same spirit in our present meeting.

We beg leave to return our humble thanks to your Majesty for your persevering attention to the increase of Christian knowledge, and the interests of the reformation in the remote parts of Scotland. Your Royal donation

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tion for this purpose, it shall be our endeavour to apply in such a manner as may best promote the generous and pious intention with which it is bestowed.

Your Majesty's well-known affection to your people, teacheth us to repose an entire confidence in the wisdom of those counsels that have induced your Majesty to restore to these kingdoms the blessings of Peace. For which, and for all the other Mercies of a gracious Providence, we desire to express our thankfulness to Almighty God, and to stir up a like spirit in the people committed to our care.

The inviolable attachment of his Noble Ancestors to the civil and religious liberties of their country, and in particular to the Church of Scotland, his own exemplary regard to Religion, and warm affection to this Church, together with his many other amiable qualities and Christian virtues, make your Majesty's choice of the Earl of Leven, to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us.

That the King of Kings may establish your Majesty's Throne in Righteousness and Mercy: That he may preserve you long to reign over a free, grateful and affectionate people: That all your Councils may be wise and prosperous: That he may bless your Majesty in your Person and in your Family; and that when at length you shall relinquish an earthly crown, you may receive that which fadeth not away, through Jesus Christ our Lord, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

HENRY GRIEVE, *Moderator.*

IV.

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IV.

The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty, on the Peace.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave to address your Majesty, with hearts full of affection and attachment, and with the most grateful sense of your Majesty's paternal goodness, in having pursued measures, by which, under God, we now enjoy the inestimable blessing of Peace: A blessing at all times desirable, but especially at a time, when this country, pressed by a powerful confederacy of its inveterate enemies, united with its former subjects and old allies, were also afflicted with an uncommon degree of scarcity of provisions.

At the end of a war less successful than former wars have been, we consider ourselves as specially called upon by the Providence of God, to exert ourselves in the discharge of our duty, and to cultivate in the minds of the people committed to our care, those sentiments of religion and virtue, which form the hearts of men to that *righteousness which exalteth a nation.*

We are happy in being able to assure your Majesty of the unaltered affection of the people of this part of the united kingdom to your Majesty's Person and Government, and of their zeal for your illustrious Family, under whose mild administration they have so long enjoyed the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

That Almighty God, the King of Kings, and the Ruler of all the nations of men, may continually have your Majesty under his Divine protection: That he may bless you in your Person and in your Family: That he may reward your Majesty's private virtues with domestic felicity, and your mild Government with the love and fidelity of your subjects: That your Reign may be long, happy and prosperous; and that at last your Majesty

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John Lindſay there, Profeſſor Dugald Stewart there, Mr John Haddoway, the Earl of Hyndford, Mr Alexander Wight advocate, Mr Archibald Campbell advocate, Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, Bart. James Colquhoun younger of Luſs, Eſq; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Mr Lamont of Knockdow, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer in Edinburgh, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Eſq; Allan M'Dougall of Galanich, Eſq; Mr Elder of Logie, Sir John Belſches, Bart. Mr Morehead of Herbertſhire, Bailie Gentle, Dr John Steedman, Edinburgh, Mr John Erſkine advocate, Major Melvill of Cairnie, Mr Ayton of Kippo, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, David Stewart, Eſq; Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, Mr Thomas Duncan writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Burnet advocate, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Eſq; Mr M'Donald of Rinetton, Mr John Taylor writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, Mr Grant of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant phyſician, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer there, Mr Simon Fraſer advocate, Dr James Williamſon, the Honourable Henry Erſkine advocate, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign expreſſed in his warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and

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and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts: And that every catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were origi-

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nally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Boun-

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ty, to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI.

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VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister of the Gospel at Dalkeith, their Moderator; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr David Dunoon at Kilcoman, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fairn, Mr John Mathieson at Kilmuir Easter, ministers, and the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, and Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, Baronet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, ministers, and James Fraser of Gortoleg, Esq; writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Donald M'Kinnon at Strath, ministers, and Andrew Crosbie, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr James Wilson at Lochs, Mr Hugh Munro at Uig, ministers, and the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Bara, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, ministers, and the Hon. Henry Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, ministers, John M'Kenzie younger of Applecross, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr George Rainy at Creech, Mr John Bethune at Dornoch, ministers, Professor Hugh M'Leod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr John Thomson at Durness, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, ministers, Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr

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Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Joseph Taylor at Wattin, ministers, Mr James Horn writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendall, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr James Sands at Lerwick, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandsting, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William Bennet at Duddingston, Dr Hugh Blair, Mr James Brown, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr William Lothian, Canongate, Mr Thomas Randall, Edinburgh, ministers, Bailie James Dickson bookseller, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway merchant, and Mr George Brown, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Grieve, Esq; present Lord Provost of the city, and Mr William Fraser, present Deacon Convener of the Trades, there; from the University of Edinburgh, Dr John Walker, Professor of Natural History; from the Church of Campvere, Mr James Yair at Campvere, and John Home, Esq; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr William Gib at Uphall, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr Alexander Wardrop at West Calder, ministers, the Right Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of Craigiehall, and Sir William Augustus Cunningham of Livingston, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Robert Clarke, Esq; present provost of Linlithgow; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan merchant in Queensferry; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr David Dickson at Liberton, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, ministers, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, Mr Robert Scott at Innerleithen, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Ebenezer Marshall at Cockpen, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr James Innes at Yester, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr Patrick M'Clarran merchant in Haddington; from the burgh of

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North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spott, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeiton, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr James Williamson at Eymouth, Mr George Home at Aytown, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr William Simpson at Morebattle, Mr Andrew Scott at Stitchell, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Cranston at Ancrum, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr Thomas Elliot at Cavers, ministers, Robert Dundas, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Laurence Johnston at Earlston, Mr William Shiells at Westruther, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr James Erskine at Roberton, Mr Simon Halliburton at Ashkirk, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr Alexander Brown at Hoddom, Mr James Yorstoun at Middlebie, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherfurd at Castletown, Mr John Dowe at Canonby, ministers, Mr James Sanders writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr William Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, Mr John Nimmo at Johnston, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, ministers, Mr John Mitchell, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, Mr James Wallace at Keir, ministers, Gilbert Grierson of Merwhern, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Mr William Aird in Killoside; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Archibald Lawson at Kirkmahoe, Mr James M'Millan at Torthorwall, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, ministers, Mr Alexander Waugh at Dunscore, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, William Hope-Weir, Esq; of Blackwood;

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Blackwood; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr William Donaldson at Parton, Mr John M'Naught at Girthon, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Balmaclellan, ministers, Mr Robert Ramsay tenant in Marytoun, ruling elder; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmer surgeon in Edinburgh; from the burgh of Wigton, Mr James Torry merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Mr Henry Blane at Stonykirk, ministers, Major John Ross of Balkail, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stranrawer, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Steel at Stair, Mr William Auld at Mauchlin, Mr William M'Gill at Ayr, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr John M'Math at Torbolton, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; and William Wallace, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Ayr, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Professor Dugald Stewart, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr John Robertson at Kilmarnock, Mr Thomas Brisbane at Dunlope, Mr William Boyd at Fenwick, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Montieth, *junior*, at Houston, Mr James Mylne of the Abbey parish, ministers, Mr Hugh Jameson, one of the present Magistrates of Paisley, and Mr John Haddoway merchant in Leith, ruling elders; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr William Adam farmer in Moslands; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Alexander Dobie at Glasford, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, ministers, Mr Alexander Fleeming, preacher of the gospel, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmahago, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Mr Alexander Wight, advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr John M'Call, Mr William Taylor in Glasgow, Mr John Hamilton at Cathcart, Mr William Thom at Govan, ministers, Mr John M'Aslane, one of the Bailies of Glasgow, and Professor John Anderson, Glasgow, ruling elders; from the city of Glasgow, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate; from the University of Glasgow, Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr Duncan M'Farlane at Drymen, Mr John M'Aulay at Cardross, Mr John Gillespie at Arrochar, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq;

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Esq; younger of Luss; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr John Melvill at Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, James Lamont of Knockdow, Esq; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmorie in Arran, Mr Alexander Hosack at Jura, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmonel, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, ministers, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchatten, Mr Patrick M'Donald at Kilmore, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Torrosay, Mr Archibald M'Call at Tiree, ministers, Allan M'Dougall of Gallanish, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Andrew Williamson at Aughtergaven, Mr Charles M'Hardie at Kirkmichael, Mr James M'Diarmed at Weim, Mr Peter Stewart at Killin, ministers, Thomas Elder of Logie, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Henry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr James Hunter at Scone, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, ministers, Sir John Belches, Baronet, and George Wright of Laton, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Oswald at Clackmanan, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, ministers, William Morehead of Herbertshire, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, James Moir, Esq; present Provost of Stirling; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr David Kemp at Gask, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr John Baird at Dunning, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, brewer, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Wright at Logie, Mr James Robertson at Callender, ministers, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, ministers, Dr John Steedman, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Mr John Eckford merchant, and late Bailie of Dunfermline; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Pinkerton at Markinch,

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inch, Mr Henry Moir at Auchtertool, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus merchant in Kirkcaldy; from the burgh of Kinghorn, John Erskine, Esq; advocate; from the burgh of Dysart, Mr Alexander Thomson merchant, and present chief Magistrate of the burgh of Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Colessie, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, ministers, John Balfour of Balbirny, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Principal M'Cormick, Mr John Nairn at Anstruther Easter, Mr James Burn at Forgon, Mr John Braid at Dinninno, ministers, James Ayton of Kippo, Esq; Mr Thomas Ballerdie merchant in Anstruther, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr James Ogilvie at Eassie, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr John Brude at Forfar, ministers, George Dempster of Dunichen, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, David Stewart, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr John Miller at Inchture, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, ministers, Mr James Thomson, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr John Aitken at St Vigiens, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, ministers, Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothick, Mr Thomas Duncan writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Paton at Craig, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield; from the presbytery of Fordown, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kineff, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, ministers, Mr John Playfair, late minister at Liff, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr George Ogilvie at Banchory-Devonich, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr William Stronach at New Machar, ministers, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; George Strachan-Keith, Esq;

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of Auquhorsk, ruling elders; from King's College, Mr Roderick M'Leod sub-principal; from the presbytery of Kincardine O' Neal, Mr Francis Downie at Banchory-ternan, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, ministers, William M'Donald of Rinetton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr James Gordon at Cabrach, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, ministers, John Gordon of Craig, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr John Rose at Udny, Mr William Paterson at Logie, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Thomas Shepherd at Bourtie, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keith-hall, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Westhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Cumine at Rathen, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Deer, ministers, Mr John Taylor writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglen, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr George Grant at Rathven, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Ogilvie at Rothes, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, ministers, Isaac Grant of Hiltown, Esq; clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kingusie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edenkilly, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, ministers, Bailie Duncan Grant of Forres, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Malcolm Nicolson at Kiltarlity, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, ministers, Simon Fraser, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Inverness, ruling elder; and the Assembly added thereto Dr George Wishart, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and all the members whose commissions had been rejected by the Assembly on account of informality, to be Commissioners of this General

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neral Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproven of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such

ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſ-

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sion, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission: And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VII.

Resolution of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, relating to a Fast.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1783.

THERE were transmitted to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and from the Synod of Moray, proposing, that, upon account of the present scarcity, and other obvious reasons, a day should be set apart for Fasting and Prayer, to be observed as a National Fast through Scotland, which being read,—The following motion was made, *viz.* The General Assembly taking into their serious consideration the late visitation of divine Providence, in afflicting these kingdoms with an uncommon scarcity of provisions, and also the seasonable relief which the people of Scotland have lately received by the importation of

large quantities of grain, the favourable seed-time, and the comfortable prospect of an early harvest, which God, in his great goodness, hath been pleased to afford us, do earnestly exhort and beseech the people of this land to lift up their souls with contrition and thankfulness to Almighty God, who, tempering his chastisements and his mercies together, calleth us to return to himself.——And further, the General Assembly being informed that a day of Fasting has already been appointed by some Synods and Presbyteries, and observed within their bounds; and judging it, upon this account, inexpedient to appoint a National Fast, do hereby recommend to the several Presbyteries, and to all the ministers of this Church, to exert their utmost endeavours, in imprinting upon the minds of the people committed to their charge, a sense of their dependence upon our Father which is in heaven, who giveth us our daily bread; and to take such methods as to them shall appear most effectually to minister to edification, in order to fix the attention of all ranks upon those lessons of contrition, of thankfulness, and of liberality, which the various dispensations of divine Providence are, at this time especially, teaching us.——The General Assembly having considered the above motion, approved thereof, and enacted accordingly, and appointed this resolution to be printed separately, and transmitted to Presbyteries as soon as possible.

VIII.

Act and Resolution concerning Lawyers and Agents who are Members of the Court, appearing as Procurators or Agents to plead or agent in Causes at the Bar of the General Assembly, or Commission.

Edinburgh, June 2. 1783. *Sess. ult.*

THE General Assembly considering that they have a title to the assistance of their members as judges in all causes brought before them, they being expressly commissioned by their constituents, to consult, vote, and determine, in all matters that shall come before the Assembly: As also, that those who are appointed members of the

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the Commission of the General Assembly, are obliged by that appointment to concur in cognoscing and determining in every matter referred to them, Do therefore Resolve, Enact and Declare, That in time coming, none who are constituent members of the Court, shall act as counsel or procurators, agents or solicitors, in any causes which come before the Assemblies or Commissions thereof.

IX.

[*The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.*]

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of Elders, it should be enacted, That no minister should set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

X.

Edinburgh, 2d June 1783.

[*The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland appointed a new Edition of the Forms of Commissions, formerly printed in* 1769, *in which the Subscription to each form is particularly marked, to be published and transmitted to all Presbyteries, Kirk-Sessions, Burghs and Universities, who are hereby required strictly to observe the same, and to engross the same in their minutes.*]

Forms of Commissions, &c.

THE General Assembly 1766, having prescribed certain Forms of Commissions to Members of Assembly, and Attestations thereof, and the Assembly 1767 having,

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having, in respect of some defects observed in these Forms, made a Supplement thereto; the General Assembly, now considering the disadvantage of having what belongs to the necessary Forms of Commissions and Attestations lying in separate Acts, by which the electors or their clerks may be more liable to mistakes or omissions, than if the whole was laid before them in one view, did appoint both to be brought together into one Act as follows; and the Agent for the Church to cause print the same, and transmit copies thereof to the several Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs.

The General Assembly, considering that it is of the greatest importance for the honour and interest of Religion, that the office-bearers of the Church should behave and conduct themselves in all respects becoming their character, do, in terms of the Act of Assembly, 22d May 1722, earnestly beseech, exhort, and require all Ministers to take heed to themselves, and to their doctrine, and to be exemplary to their People in sobriety, righteousness, and holiness, abstaining from all appearance of evil. And in like manner, the General Assembly do earnestly beseech, exhort, and require the Elders and Deacons to be faithful in the discharge of their respective offices, tender and circumspect in their walk, punctual in their attending upon ordinances, strict in their observation of the Lord's Day, and regular in keeping up the worship of God in their families. The Assembly do further enjoin and require, for the more regular election of Members to the Assembly in time coming, Presbyteries, Burghs, and Universities, strictly to observe the Acts of former Assemblies, appointing that the election shall be made at least forty days before the meeting of Assembly, and within a month preceding the first of the said forty days, except those lying in the Northern and Western Isles, and shall appoint the day of election at a meeting to be entered in their minutes, at least ten free days before such election; and that on the day of election, they shall make their elections betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening.

The General Assembly considering also, that some Acts regulating the manner and time of electing Members to the Assembly, are posterior to the Act 17th May 1725, establishing Forms of their Commissions; and that these Forms refer in general to Acts of Assembly that contain some particulars, of which Presbyteries, Universities and Burghs, cannot have any certain evidence, and are thereby reduced to the necessity, either of attesting what does

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not come properly under their own knowledge, or of omitting clauses in the established form, whereby their Commissions have been rendered void and null; the Assembly did, on all these accounts, and hereby do, appoint and ordain the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, hereunto subjoined, to be observed by Presbyteries, Sessions, Universities and Burghs; and enact and ordain, That all such Commissions and Attestations, as are not conceived and attested in these very words of the Form now prescribed, shall be rejected.

The General Assembly do further declare and enact, That when a Kirk-Session or Presbytery refuse their concurrence or attestation to a Commission by a Burgh or University, without assigning the reasons of their refusal, that Commission shall be sustained as if duly attested, in case the matter shall be brought before the Assembly by protest or appeal.

Form of COMMISSIONS *by Presbyteries.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representatives to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their minutes on the day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint Mr Minister at and Mr Minister at and Ruling Elders, their Commissioners to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing them to repair thereto, and to attend all the diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as they will be answerable; and that they report their diligence therein at their return therefrom. And the said Presbytery does hereby testify and declare, That all the Ministers above named have signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of the Assembly 1711; and the Ruling Elders above written have signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the Assembly 1694. And further, that the said Elders are of unblemished characters, circumspect in their walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behave in other respects agreeable to their

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office: All which the Presbytery have hereby attested on proper information. Extracted by *A. B.* Cls.

Form in the Case of an After-Election *of a* Commissioner, *in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, and (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place, Mr Minister at (or, if an Elder, Ruling Elder) their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and do hereby testify and declare (if a Minister) that he hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of Assembly 1711; (if an Elder) that he is in all respects qualified in the same manner as their Commissioner in whose room he is chosen, which the Presbytery hereby attests upon proper information. Extracted by *A. B.* Cls.

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of having had the above extract of their Commission to their Representatives in the ensuing Assembly laid before them, they caused it to be read, and having revised and considered the same, they did approve thereof. Attested by *A. B.* Moderator, or *C. D.* Cls.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Universities.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of having right to elect, being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their Minutes on the day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend at all the diets of the same, and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God, and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution

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tion of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his diligence therein at his return therefrom. And it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is a Minister, or (an Elder) of this Church, lawfully ordained, and (if a Minister) hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of the Assembly *anno* 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the Assembly 1694. And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the acts of the Assembly, and (if an Elder, it must be said in particular) he is of an unblemished character, circumspect in his walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other respects agreeable to his office. All which the University have hereby attested on proper information.

Extracted by *C. D.* Cls.

Form for Universities, *in the Case of an* After-Election *of a* Commissioner, *in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, and (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testified and declared, That he is in all respects qualified in the same manner as their former Commissioner, in whose room he is chosen, which the University attests on proper information.

Extracted by *C. D.* Cls.

N. B. This Form for Universities is prescribed, on the supposition that the former Commissioner, and the person chosen in his place, are either both of them Ministers, or both of them Elders: But if an Elder is chosen in the place of a Minister, or a Minister in the place of an Elder, then the attestation must contain the words at length of the form prescribed for the first election.

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of having had before them a Commission given by the University of to represent the said University in the ensuing General Assembly of

of this National Church, do, in terms of the 4th act of Assembly 1720, the 7th act of Assembly 1723, and 4th act of Assembly 1724, testify and declare, That the said is a Minister (or, an Elder) lawfully ordained; that he has signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of Assembly 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of Assembly 1694; and that he is a Master of the said University, or And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by

A. B. Moderator.
or *C. D.* Cls.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Burghs.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Magistrates and Town-Council of being convened in Council, betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their Minutes on the day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God, and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his diligence therein at his return therefrom. And it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is an Elder of this Church, lawfully ordained, and hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 11th act of Assembly 1694, and is every other way qualified to be a Member of Assembly, and likewise that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie) according to the Acts of Assembly; and, in particular, that he is of an unblemished character, circumspect in his walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other respects

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respects agreeable to his office. All which the Magistrates and Town-Council have attested on proper information. Extracted by *C. D.* Cls.

Form for Burghs *in the Case of an* After-Election *of a* Commissioner *in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Magistrates and Town-Council of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said burgh) or (an heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) and that he is in all other respects qualified in the same manner as their former Commissioner, in whose room he is chosen, which the Magistrates and Town-Council do attest on proper information. Extracted by *C. D.* Cls.

ATTESTATION *by the Kirk-Session.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Kirk-session of having laid before them, a Commission by the Magistrates and Town-council of to Ruling Elder, to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, do, in the terms of the 4th act of Assembly 1720, testify and declare, That the said is an Elder lawfully ordained; and that he has signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the General Assembly 1694; and likewise that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the bounds of the said Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie.) Attested by *A. B.* Moderator. or *C. D.* Cls.

I ATTESTA-

ATTESTATION *by the Presbytery.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of having had produced before them, a Commission given by the Magistrates and Town-council of to to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, with an Attestation of the Kirk-session of the said Burgh, conform to the direction of the Act 9th of Assembly 1718, Act 4th, Assembly 1720, and Act 4th, Assembly 1724, do, in terms of the foresaid Acts, likewise testify and declare, That the said is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694; and likewise, that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said Burgh) or (heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie); and further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by *A. B.* Moderator. or *C. D.* Cls.

XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Aysle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 20th day of May, in the year 1784.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1783, which are not printed at full length.

May 22. 1783. *Sess. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Principal M'Cormick of St Andrews, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Principal M'Cormick, Dr Henry Grieve minister of the Gospel at Dalkieth, was unanimously chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered into the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

The same Committee named, to draw up an Address to his Majesty on the Peace.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A letter from the Reverend Dr George Wishart, one of the principal clerks, desiring to be excused from attending, on account of the state of his health, read, and the desire thereof unanimously granted.

A Committee for overtures named.

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A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 23. 1783. *Sess.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.
A diet spent in prayer.
New commissions produced.
Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.
Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.
The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening in their usual place.
The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.
Adjournment.

May 24. 1783. *Sess.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.
New commissions produced.
The report of the Committee for overtures, called for, given in, and read over.
An objection to the commission from the Presbytery of Fordyce, heard; the objection sustained, and the Commissioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.
The consideration of the objection to the commissions from the University of St Andrews, and the burgh of Kirkcaldy, delayed till Tuesday.
An objection to the commission from the burgh of Inverary, heard; the Assembly sustained the objection, and ordered the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.
The consideration of the commission from the burgh of Dunfermline, delayed till Monday.
An objection to the commission from the burgh of Cupar, heard; the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the commission.
The draught of an answer to the King's most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in and approved, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.
The draught of an address to his Majesty on the Peace, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The

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The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced and read over.

Resolved to consider on Monday Mr Meldrum's petition, immediately after the petition of Bailie Hutton.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1783. *Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and and read.

Agreed to consider to-morrow the overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and the Synod of Moray, anent a national Fast. And on Wednesday, the overtures from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, and Synod of Fife, relating to the law of Patronage.

Report of the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

Synod-books called for; the Synod-book of Glenelg and Lothian and Tweedale produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same; none of the other Synod-books were brought up: Resolved that the reasons for their absence be enquired into.

Agreed to consider on Friday the cause of Moy, the cause of Dalton to-morrow, and the cause of Carsphairn on Thursday.

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An appeal of Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline, against the Kirk-session in Dunfermline, for refusing to attest his commission from the burgh of Dunfermline. Also an appeal of the Kirk-session of Dunfermline, from a sentence of the Synod of Fife, dismissing the whole proceedings of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, and Kirk-session of Dunfermline, respecting a sentence of suspension pronounced against the said Bailie William Hutton by the said Kirk-session, for neglect of duty as a member of said Session, heard; the sentence of the Synod reversed, the sentence of the Presbytery affirmed, and Bailie Hutton's commission sustained.

A petition for the Reverend Mr Alexander Meldrum respecting his ordination, heard. The Assembly leave it to the Synod of Fife to hear the Presbytery of St Andrews, and Mr Meldrum, on the question regarding his ordination; but, in the mean time, remove the preclusion pronounced by the Synod, until the cause shall be determined, and, mean time, allow Mr Meldrum to exercise within this Church, the special powers conveyed by his ordination.

The Committee for revising commissions, to meet to-morrow morning a quarter before ten; and the Committee for overtures at ten.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1783. *Sess.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The objection to the commissions from the University of St Andrews, and from the Burghs of Dysart and Kirkcaldy, delayed till Friday.

The overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Synod of Moray, respecting a national Fast, delayed till Thursday morning.

An appeal of Dr William Bryden, minister of the Gospel at Dalton, against several interlocutors of the Synod of Dumfries, in the cause at the instance of the Parishioners of Dalton against him; a petition from the Synod of Dumfries, and parish of Dalton; and a petition for Dr David Lamont, and Mr Thomas Smith, dissenters and complainers against the sentence of the Synod, heard; the several articles considered one by one. As to the first, viz. the grounds of exculpation offered by Dr Bryden, found not sufficient to entitle him

him to a proof prior to a proof of the articles of the libel; but allowed Dr Bryden a conjunct proof of all facts and circumstances that may tend to alleviation or exculpation. As to the second, the sentences of the Presbytery and Synod, repelling the objection to Messrs Dickson and Adam Richardson judging in the cause, *reversed*. As to the third, the Assembly rejected the requisition of an amendment of the libel, and addition to the list of witnesses. And as to the appeal against the sentence of the Presbytery, refusing to authorise the neighbouring ministers to dispense sealing ordinances to the Parishioners of Dalton, the Assembly affirmed said sentence.

The Committee on public accompts appointed to meet to-morrow morning at half past nine, in the Society Hall.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the usual powers.

On a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at half past ten o'clock.

The Committee on the window and house-tax renewed, with the usual powers.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1783. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Upon a motion by the Reverend Mr Kemp, a member of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the Assembly continue the appointment made by last General Assembly, for a collection for transmitting and printing the Bible in the Gaelic language, on such parishes as have not yet made the collection.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

The Procurator, Agent and Printer's accompts, produced, and ordered to be on the table.

Agreeable to a former resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synod of Fyfe, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, respecting the law of Patronage; and, after reasoning, two motions were made and seconded; 1*st*, To dismiss these overtures *simpliciter*; 1*d*, That the Assembly will ordain all the Presbyteries of this Church, having previously consulted the landed interest upon the day when they shall chuse a representative to next Assembly, to take under their serious deliberation this point, Whether they approve of an application to Parliament for a restoration of the mode

mode of settling ministers established by the act 1690; and that they return their opinion by their Commissions to next Assembly, &c. The question being put, the first motion carried, and the Assembly dismissed the said overtures *simpliciter*. Against which, several members dissented.

Upon a motion, the Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1783. *Sess. 7th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday against the decision respecting the law of Patronage.

The report of the Committee for classing overtures was given in and read.

The overture anent the ordination of Elders retransmitted. *Vide* Printed Acts.

The Synod-books of Fife, and of Angus and Mearns, produced.

Agreeable to a resolution at a former diet, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Synod of Moray, anent the general Fast. A motion made and agreed to by the Assembly. *Vide* Printed Acts.

An appeal of Mr Robert Affleck, Preacher of the Gospel, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, of date the 7th of May instant, heard; the sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright affirmed, finding the first, second and fourth articles of the libel proved; and, therefore, that Mr Affleck is unqualified to be, and cannot be settled as minister of Carsphairn, under the presentation in his favour; and recalling the licence given to the said Mr Affleck, to be a Probationer or Preacher of the Church of Scotland.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1783. *Sess. 8th.*

Sederunt.

Resolved to consider the petition of Mr James Lawson, and Mr Fortune's cause, first to-morrow; and next to these, the petition and representation for the Synod of Perth, anent a process against Mr Archibald Renny.

The objection to the Commission from the University of St Andrews, along with the objection to the Commissions

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ſions from the burghs of Kirkcaldy and Dyſart, heard; the objections repelled, and the Commiſſions ſuſtained, in reſpect that the atteſtation by the Preſbytery in each, was according to the form laſt tranſmitted in 1769.

An appeal of James M'Intoſh in Garbel, and others, Heritors, Elders and Heads of Families of the united pariſhes of Moy and Dalaroſſie, againſt a ſentence of the Synod of Moray, reverſing a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Inverneſs, depoſing Mr James M'Intoſh, partly heard: Two motions were made and ſeconded; 1*ſt*, That in reſpect the whole proof not being printed, the members had not an opportunity of conſidering the ſame; therefore, that the cauſe ſhould be referred to the Commiſſion. 2*d*, That the Aſſembly proceed to hear and decide in the cauſe to-morrow. The queſtion being put, the ſecond motion carried. The Aſſembly, therefore, agreed to hear and decide in the cauſe to-morrow; and, for that purpoſe, appointed a Committee of the whole houſe to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1783. *Seſſ.* 9*th.*

Sederunt.

Act approving of the accompt of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging Mr Robertſon of the ſum received by him, and appointing that he take credit in the next accompt, of the ſum of L. 13 : 16 : 2 $\frac{6}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the accompt of Mr George Cairncroſs, Agent for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging Mr Cairncroſs of the ſum received by him, and appointing that he debit himſelf in his next accompt, with the ſum of L. 29 : 13 : 10 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

The accompt of Mr James Dickſon, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

A report by the Procurator for the Church, relating to the public money, given in and read, and approved of by the Aſſembly; and the Aſſembly's thanks returned from the chair to the Procurator, for his diligence and aſſiduity in the affairs of the Church, and for his having ſo much reduced the debts due by the Church.

A petition for Mr John Ewart miniſter at Traquair, craving aid out of the public funds, with the Procurator's opinion thereon, produced and read, and the opinion approved of.

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The report of the visitors of the Commission Record given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the chair, to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register called for; the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The report of the Trustees of the Widows Fund produced, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of members.

Delayed calling for the reports of the visitors of the Synod-books till Monday.

The report of the Committee of the whole house, on the cause at the instance of the Parishioners of Moy and Dalarossie against Mr James M'Intosh, minister of these parishes, called for, produced and read; the Assembly unanimously agreed thereto; and therefore, the General Assembly finding themselves not ripe to decide, whether the sentence of the Synod ought to be affirmed or reversed, in respect that several material facts and circumstances stated in the libel have not been expiscated, Remit the cause to the Presbytery of Inverness, enjoining them to take such methods as the laws of this Church prescribe, for examining all the witnesses mentioned in the declaration of Barbara Main, particularly those who were at that time residing in or about the city of Edinburgh; and enjoining all other judicatories of this Church, who may be called upon by the Presbytery of Inverness, to co-operate with them in expiscating the truth; and summoned the parties *apud acta*, to attend such judicatories, when and where they shall be called: The Presbytery of Inverness appointed to report such additional proof to next General Assembly: Mr M'Intosh, in the mean time, suspended from the exercise of his ministry till the meeting of next Assembly; recommending to the Presbytery of Inverness, to take care that during that time the ordinances of religion be dispensed to the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie.

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The petition of Mr Lawson and of Mr Fortune, and the representation and petition for the Synod of Perth, delayed till Monday.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1783. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent against the sentence passed on Wednesday last, on the overtures respecting the law of Patronage, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Upon a motion by the agent for the pursuers in the cause against Mr James M'Intosh, the Assembly recommended to the Procurator to concur in any application to the civil power made to him, to oblige witnesses who shall be summoned, to give evidence in the said cause.

List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The Synod-books of Lothian and Tweedale, Fife and Angus, and Mearns, ordered to be attested.

The excuse of the visitors of the Synod-book of Glenelg, for not revising it, sustained, and the Synod ordered to bring up their book to next Assembly.

Act discharging Dr John Drysdale's intromissions with the window and house-tax money, and ordering that Dr Drysdale be accountable for the sum of L. 51 : 19 : 4 Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

The petition and representation of the Synod of Perth, respecting a process raised against Mr Ranny minister of Muckart, with regard to poors money, heard. The Procurator and Agent for the Church declared their willingness to give Mr Ranny all the assistance in their power.

Upon a motion, the Clerk ordered to print off a new edition of the Forms of Commissions, printed formerly in the year 1769, in which the subscription to each form is particularly marked, and to transmit them to Presbyteries, Kirk-sessions, Burghs and Universities, as soon as possible.

The accompt of stationary ware due by the Clerks to John and Elphingston Balfours, ordered to be paid.

The accompt due to Messrs Fleming and Tennent, ordered to be paid.

The Committee on erecting new parishes in the Highlands and islands renewed, with the usual powers.

The report of the Trustees for Managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a state of

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of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose; the thanks of the house given to Dr Webster, for his extraordinary diligence and fidelity in his attention to said fund.

An appeal of Mr James Lawson, student in Divinity, against a sentence of the presbytery of Auchterarder, refusing him a certificate, and likewise refusing him originals or extracts of papers on the Presbytery's record, relative to his cause, heard. The sentence of the Presbytery affirmed, so far as it respects the certificates demanded by Mr Lawson; Mr Lawson allowed full extracts of every thing on the record of the Presbytery, relating to his cause, but no partial extracts; and if he ask papers that lie *in retentis*, he shall have attested copies of them.

Upon a motion, the Assembly agreed, that the words, "Solicitor or Agent," shall be added immediately after the words, "Counsel or Procurators," in the 4th act of Assembly 1751, and ordered, that the said act, with this addition, should be printed along with the acts of this Assembly. *Vide* Printed Acts.

An appeal of Mr James Fortune, student in Divinity, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweedale, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, refusing to take Mr Fortune on trials, heard. The sentence of the Synod reversed, and remitted to the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take Mr Fortune upon trials, or to assign the causes of their refusal.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read; the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer and singing a Psalm.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 20th Day of *May* 1784.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland.*

M,DCC,LXXXIV.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 20th Day of *May* 1784, and concluded the 31st *May* said year.

I.

The King's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 20. 1784.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal

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Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in diem vigesimum Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus die statuto debita observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei,* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus supremi nostri Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquoque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiae conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eo summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore praeterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter praesentes facere potuerimus. Quaeque omnia et singula quae dictus* David Comes de Leven *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime faciet, seu fieri ordinabit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte præcipimus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem a dicto vigesimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare,*

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continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, praesentibus, Sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo quinto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-quarto, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-quarto. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and well-beloved, We greet you well. It is with great satisfaction We now repeat the assurance of Our favourable disposition towards the Church of Scotland, as your constant and zealous endeavours hitherto, for the promotion of true Religion and Virtue, have met with Our Gracious Approbation. And having the most convincing proofs of your loyalty and affection to Our Person and Government, We cannot now refrain from declaring Our firm resolution to support the Church of Scotland, in all its Rights and Privileges as by Law established.

We have no doubt that the same laudable examples of Religion and Virtue will be shewn at the present meeting, and that you will be diligent in instilling into the minds of those committed to your charge, a devout reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble gratitude to His Divine Providence for His innumerable Mercies, and that you will be steady, and persevere in the suppression of impiety and immorality. In objects so essential to the general peace and happiness of society, you may be assured of Our readiness to contribute every possible assistance.

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We have again appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland.

In full confidence that charity, brotherly love and unanimity, will prevail in all your proceedings in the business before you, and that you will bring the present Meeting to a happy conclusion, We bid you heartily farewel.

Given at Our Court at St James's, the 3d day of May 1784, in the twenty-fourth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE letter with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to so distinguished a mark of Royal Favour.

Your Majesty's gracious approbation of the conduct of former Assemblies, is a strong incitement to us to continue those zealous endeavours for the promotion of true Religion and Virtue, which have procured to them this honourable testimony. We have entire confidence in your Majesty's favourable disposition towards the Church of Scotland: And we receive every repeated declaration.

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declaration of your firm resolution to support our Church in all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law established, as a pleasing reward of our loyalty and affection to your Majesty's Person and Government.

It shall be our constant study, in our conduct, to hold forth to those who are committed to our charge, examples of Religion and Virtue, to instil into their minds a devout reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble gratitude to His Divine Providence for His innumerable Mercies, and to exert all our influence in the suppression of impiety and immorality. We rejoice that we are the subjects of a Prince who is a pattern of piety and virtue to his people, who, as a nursing Father of the Church, calls its Ministers, by his authority, to the faithful discharge of the duties of their sacred function, and from whom they are assured of receiving every possible assistance, in promoting those objects which are most essential for the general peace and happiness of society.

We beg leave to return our grateful acknowledgements to your Majesty, for your attention to the propagation of the principles of the reformed Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Your Majesty's Royal Donation, for that pious and useful end, shall be applied with the most prudent care.

The inviolable and warm attachment, which the Ancestors of the Earl of Leven shewed to the civil and religious liberties of their country, his own exemplary regard to Religion, his affection to the Church of Scotland, and the many amiable virtues by which his character is distinguished, render your Majesty's nomination of that Noble Lord, to represent your Royal Person, a most acceptable mark of your attention to this Assembly.

We shall endeavour to maintain in all our proceedings, that charity, brotherly love, and unanimity, which your Majesty has been pleased to recommend, and without which, we are sensible that the decisions of an Ecclesiastical Assembly cannot fully produce the good effects intended.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect your Person, and establish your Throne in righteousness: That he may pour down his best blessings upon our gracious Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long with wisdom and felicity upon earth,

you.

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you may enter into thoſe happy Regions, where pious and virtuous Princes ſhall receive an unfading crown, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal ſubjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Moderator*.

IV.

The General Aſſembly's Addreſs to his Majeſty.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders met together in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave, with all humility and reſpect, to approach your Majeſty's Throne, and, with that affection which we owe to our Gracious Sovereign, to aſſure your Majeſty of our ſincere and inviolable attachment to your Royal Perſon, Family and Government.

Senſible of the many ineſtimable bleſſings, which theſe Kingdoms, and this Church in particular, derive from the beneficent reign of a Prince, who is ſo juſtly eſteemed as the affectionate Father of his people, we feel ourſelves deeply intereſted in every event which is conducive to the proſperity and happineſs of your Majeſty's Family. While we rejoice in ſuch events as contributing

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buting to your Majesty's domestic felicity, we are at the same time convinced that they afford additional security to those Privileges, both sacred and civil, which this Nation have had the happiness to enjoy, under the auspicious government of your Majesty, and of your illustrious Ancestors.

Animated by these sentiments, we do, with the most cordial satisfaction, and with the most devout gratitude to Almighty God, the sovereign Disposer of all events, congratulate your Majesty, that, since the last meeting of the General Assembly, God, in his kind Providence, hath been pleased to add to your Majesty's Family, by the birth of another Princess, and to gratify the ardent wishes of all your Majesty's loyal Subjects, by the happy recovery of your Royal Consort, our most Gracious Queen, from her late indisposition.

That God may be graciously pleased to preserve your Majesty's most valuable life for a blessing to your kingdom and people: That he may take under his merciful protection our most Gracious Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal Family: That the descendents of your Majesty's illustrious House, may sit on the British Throne, and be eminent Protectors of the liberties of all your Majesty's dominions to the latest posterity; and that your Majesty, after a long, a glorious, and a happy Reign, over a free and faithful people, may at last, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, be rewarded with a crown of immortal glory in the Kingdom of Heaven, are, and ever shall be, the most fervent prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Moderator*.

C V.

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V.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Aſſembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr John Dryſdale, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Grant at Kinguiſie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr James Gillan at Kinloſs, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryſe Campbell at Arderſier, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Roſe at Dingwall, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kilmaly, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherſon at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Monro at Wig, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uiſt, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, Mr John M'Queen at Applecroſs, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golſpie, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at Thurſo, Mr John Moriſon at Caniſby, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Bryce Johnſton at Hollywood, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr John Scott at Twineholm, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothſay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Robert Thomſon at Kilean, Mr Alexander Hoſſack at Jura and Colonſa, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Fraſer at Craigniſh, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardhatton, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, Mr Donald Skinner at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tirrie,

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rie, Mr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr David Dickson at Bothkennar, Mr John Wright at Trinitygask, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Alexander Daling at Cliesh, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Dr Gerard at Aberdeen, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Professor George Hill, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr David Forbes at Laurencekirk, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrumy, Mr John Rose at Udney, Mr Robert Gauld at Kilsalmond, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr William Moir at Fyvie, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr Robert Douglas at Gallashiels, Mr Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr Archibald Bonar at Glasgow, Mr Finlay at Paisley, Ministers; the Honourable Mr Baron Gordon, Thomas Hogg, Esq; advocate, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, clerk to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Lothian merchant, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway merchant, Edinburgh, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, Donald Smith treasurer of the city of Edinburgh, Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, Mr William Robertson procurator for the Church, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, Bannatyne William M'Leod, Esq; advocate, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, Mr James Horn writer to the Signet, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant, Edinburgh, Professor Andrew Dalziel, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Archibald M'Dowal Esq; Dean of Guild, Mr Archibald Mercer merchant, Mr John Gloag merchant, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener William Jamieson, Professor John Hill, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, the Right Honourable Lord President, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr Solicitor-General, Mark Pringle Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh, Alexander Ferguson Esq; advocate, Alexander Gordon Esq; of Culvenan, advocate, Mr James Dickson bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr John Haddoway merchant, Leith, Alexander Wight Esq; advocate, James Colquhoun younger of Luss, Esq; the Right Honourable Lord Henderland, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer to the Signet, Sir John Belsches Baronet, Bailie James Gentle, Dr John Steedman physician, Edinburgh, Dr Andrew

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drew Duncan physician, Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, Mr Thomas Duncan writer, Edinburgh, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Mr William Leslie clerk to the Signet, Mr John Taylor clerk to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr John Russell *junior*, writer, Mr George Robinson writer, Walter Dunbar, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer, John Clerk of Elden, Esq; Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent; who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular

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particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts: And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they

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are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean

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mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, ministers, the Right Honourable Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Grant at Boharm, ministers, Thomas Hogg, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Anderson

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Anderson at Kinguisie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Reid at Duffus, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryse Campbell at Arderfier, ministers, Mr John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Invernes, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, ministers, Bailie William Galloway merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Invernes, Alexander Baillie of Dockfour, Esq; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, ministers, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Douglas at Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fern, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; treasurer of the city of Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kilmaly, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, ministers, James Frazer, Esq; of Gortoleg, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, ministers, Mr Andrew Crosbie, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Monro at Wig, ministers, Mr William Robertson Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, ministers, Alexander M'Leod, Esq; of Harris, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr John M'Queen at Applecross, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, ministers, Bannatyne William M'Leod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, ministers, Dr Hugh M'Leod, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr Alexander Nicolson at Thurso, Mr John Morison at Canisby, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Mr James Horn writer to the Signet;

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net; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr James Alison at Holm, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Cairston, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, Mr Andrew M'Cara, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr William Clouston at Cross, Burness, Mr John Anderson at Stronsa and Ada, ministers, William Wemyss, Esq; writer to the signet; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Jack at Northmaving, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Lundie, Dr Robert Henry, Edinburgh, Mr John Chiesly at Corstorphin, Dr John M'Farlane, Canongate, Dr Andrew Hunter, Edinburgh, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, advocate, Dean of Guild M'Dowall, Mr Archibald Mercer, merchant, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Grieve, present Lord Provost, Convener William Jamieson; from the University of Edinburgh, Professor John Hill; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Charles Wilkie at Ecclesmachen, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr James Dobie at Mid-Calder, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cuningham, Mr John Gloag, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor in Queensferry; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr William Howe at Skerling, Mr James Finlayson at Symington, Mr William Lockhart at Coulter, ministers, Mr John Miller in Dienfire, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Mushet at Tweedsmuir, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr John Paton at Laswade, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Provost Patrick M'Clarran; from the burgh of North Berwick, Bailie William Swinton; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Clunie at Whitekirk, Mr John Lundie at Old Hamstocks, ministers, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Douglas at Buncle, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq;

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ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr James Bell at Coldstream, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger, of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Riccalton at Hopekirk, Mr James Richardson at Oxnam, Mr William Burn at Minto, ministers, Robert Dundas, Esq; his Majesty's Solicitor-General, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr William Gullan at Legerwood, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiells, Mr Thomas Sharp at Ettrick, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod, merchant in Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr William Hardy-Moncrieff at Annan, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott, merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, ministers, Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Joseph Ferguson at Tundergarth, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, ministers, Mr John Coupland of Minygape, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson, Esq; of Craigdarroch; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Andrew Yorstoun at Closeburn, Mr John Robertson at Kirkconnel, ministers, Mr William Hamilton in Sanquhar, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Bryce Johnston at Hollywood, Mr William Burnside at Dumfries, Mr Joseph Kirkpatrick at Dunscore, ministers, Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, John Dickson, Esq; late Provost of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr John Scott at Tineholm, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, ministers, Mr Robert Ferguson in Milnmark, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, Ephraim Lockhart of Barmagachin, Esq; from the presbytery of Wigton, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorby, Mr John Dickson at Kirkowan, ministers; from the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr John M'Kenzie at Portpatrick, Mr Henry Blair at Stonykirk,

ministers,

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ministers, Bailie James Dickson, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Dun at Auchinleck, Mr James Young at New Cumnock, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, ministers, Mr David Lees in Loch-hill, Mr William Hood, portioner of Torbolton, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr David M'Lellan at Beith, Mr John Fullarton at Dalry, Mr Michael Tod at Dreghorn, ministers, the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewelton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John Monteith *senior* at Howston, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr John Finlay at Paisley, ministers, Bailie William Carlyle, Paisley, Mr John Haddoway, merchant, Leith, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Patrick Maxwell at East Monkland, Mr Alexander Hutchison at Hamilton, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanerk, Mr William Miller at Crawfordjohn, Mr James Scott at Carlook, ministers, John Wharie, Esq; of Lesmahago, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanerk, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr Joseph Hodgeson at Carmunock, Mr Archibald Bonar at Glasgow, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, Mr James Lapsley at Campsey, ministers; Professor John Anderson, Glasgow, Mr Robert Tennant, maltman in Glasgow, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Professor William Richardson; from the burgh of Rutherglen, George White, Esq; of Bankhead; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr John Davidson at Old Kilpatrick, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr Hugh Gourley at Balfron, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, younger of Luss, Esq; from the presbytery of Denoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killian, Mr Alexander Hossack at Jura and Colonsie, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Henderland, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inveraray, Dr James Williamson;

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liamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchatton, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the Presbytery of Mull, Mr Donald Skinner at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tiree, ministers, Allan M'Dougall of Gallanich, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Patrick M'Vean at Dull, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr Patrick Stuart at Killin, ministers, Thomas Elder of Logie, Esq; Mr Alexander Miller, advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr William M'Liesh at Colace, Mr William Lang at Arngosk, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, ministers, Sir John Belsches, Baronet, George Wright of Laton, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Dickson at Bothkennar, Mr John Duncan at Alva, ministers, David Gowrley, Esq; of Kipdarroch, ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, Convener Alexander Cuthill; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendoven, Mr John Wright at Trinitygask, Mr William Graham at Fossaway, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunblane, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhidder, ministers, Captain John Graham of Douchry, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr James Thomson at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Daling at Cleish, Mr John Hoyes at Dalgety, ministers, Dr John Steedman, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton, merchant; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Bailie John Eckford, merchant, Dunfermline; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldie, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr James Wemyss at Burntisland, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Cupar, Sir Robert Preston at Cupar, Mr Robert Wingate at Abdie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, ministers, John Balfour of Balbirnie, Esq; Mr James Lister of Pitlessie-mill, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr John Chalmers at Kilconquhar, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther Wester, Mr Spence-Olyphant at Largo, ministers, Neil Ferguson, Esq; of Pitcullo, Mr Alexander Meldrum of Kincaple, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician, Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from

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from the Presbytery of Meigle, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Badinoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr James Lyon at Glammis, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Imlach at Muirhouse, Mr William Maul at Moneekie, ministers, Mr Charles Jobson, merchant in Dundee, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dundee, Bailie John Thoms; from the presbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, ministers, Mr Richard Lake, writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothick, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Dr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Mr William Leslie, clerk to the signet; from the presbytery of Fordown, Mr David Forbes at Laurenskirk, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kineff, ministers, Mr John Playfair, late minister of Liff, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw, Aberdeen, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr William Stronach at New Machar, ministers, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, George Strachan-Keith, Esq; ruling elders; from King's College, Dr Alexander Gerard; from the presbytery of Kincardine O' Neal, Mr Francis Downie at Banchory-ternan, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Robert Farquharson at Goldstone, ministers, William M'Donald of Rinetton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr John Lumsden at Strathdon, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Thomas Tait at Auchindore, ministers, John Gordon of Craig, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr John Rose of Udny, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Robert Gauld at Kilsamond, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr Alexander Duff at Monymusk, ministers, Alexander Leith, Esq; of Freefield, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kintore, John Clerk, *junior*, of Eldin, Esq; from the burgh of Inverury, John Clerk of Eldin, Esq; from

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the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Deer, ministers, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turiff, Mr William Moir at Fyvie, Mr Alexander Rose at Auchterless, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Mr James Dunbar at Boyndee, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr John Russell, *junior*, writer to the signet; from the burgh of Banff, George Robinson of Gask, Esq; writer in Edinburgh; and the Assembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and all the members whose commissions had been rejected by the Assembly on account of informality, *viz.* from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers, Esq; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr George Home, baker in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Robert Scott at Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvat, Mr George Goldie at Atholstoneford, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, Adam Ogilvie, Esq; advocate; from the burgh of Wigton, Bailie James Torry, merchant, Edinburgh; from the burgh of Ayr, George Ferguson, Esq; advocate; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which

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which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproven of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in

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in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act

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of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VII.

Interim Act and Overture concerning Ordained Assistants.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

VIII.

Resolution concerning Marriages.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly do resolve, That no Session-clerk in this Church, proclaim any persons in order to marriage, until he give intimation to the Minister of the parish in a writing, dated and subscribed by him, of the names, designations, and places of residence of the

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parties to be proclaimed; and obtain the ſaid Miniſter's leave to make the ſaid proclamation, with certification, that if any certificate of proclamation of banns is given, without obſerving the above order, the ſaid certificate ſhall be held as a falſe certificate; and the Seſſion-clerk who ſubſcribes it, ſhall be cenſured accordingly; and in caſe of a vacancy, the above intimation is to be made to two of the Elders of the pariſh; and that this Reſolution be printed in the Acts of this Aſſembly; and appointed the clerks to tranſmit copies of this their Reſolution to the ſeveral Preſbyteries, to be by them tranſmitted to the Seſſions of the pariſhes within their bounds, in order to its being obſerved.

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IX.

Recommendation reſpecting Ordination to the Office of a Miniſter, without relation to a particular Charge.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

THE Committee appointed to conſider the Overture reſpecting ordination to the office of a Miniſter, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follow: Having carefully conſidered the ſaid Overture, find that matter attended with ſo many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propoſe to the General Aſſembly any preciſe rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into ſtanding laws; and can only move, That the Aſſembly ſhould, in the mean time, recommend it to Preſbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to ſuch perſons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reaſonable proſpect of ſuch proviſion as may enable them to ſupport the miniſterial character; and that no Preſbytery grant ordination to any perſon who has a near proſpect of removing from the bounds of that Preſbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it ſhall by them be found neceſſary or proper. Which being conſidered by the General Aſſembly, they approved

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approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this Recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

X.

A new Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 19th day of May, in the year 1785.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JAMES MACKNIGHT, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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INDEX or ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1784, which are not printed at full length.

May 20. 1784. *Sess.* 1*st*.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister of the Gospel at Dalkeith, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr Henry Grieve, the Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Grieve proposed Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and Dr John M'Farlane, one of the ministers of Canongate, as candidates for the chair; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, Dr Drysdale. The Assembly therefore made choice of the said Dr John Drysdale to be their Moderator; and he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair. Against which election, several members protested, as illegal and unconstitutional.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

At request of Dr George Wishart, one of the principal clerks of Assembly, the Assembly unanimously appointed Dr James Macknight, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, as assistant clerk, during all the diets of this Assembly, and the commissions thereof; and he took the oath *de fideli*.

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A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

The ſame Committee named to draw up an Addreſs to his Majeſty, on the birth of a Princeſs, and the recovery of her Majeſty from her late dangerous illneſs.

A Committee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, and receiving in liſts of the probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.

Adjournment.

May 21. 1784. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

New commiſſions produced.

Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of this Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1784. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

Reaſons of proteſt againſt Dr Dryſdale's election as Moderator of this Aſſembly, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*. To which proteſtation ſeveral members adhered.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The draught of an Addreſs to his Majeſty on the birth of a Princeſs, and the recovery of her Majeſty from her late dangerous illneſs, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt,

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request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The commission from the presbytery of Haddington rejected, because it wants the words, "*and appoint;*" and the Commissioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the objection to the commission from the presbytery of Ayr delayed.

The commission from the burgh of Jedburgh rejected, because there were not ten free days between the resolution and the day of election; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Ayr rejected, because the minute of election is extracted by a person, who has not adjected to his subscription the word *clerk*; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Wigton rejected, because of various informalities in the commission; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Kirkwall rejected, because therein the kirk-session is not designed, before which it was laid for attestation; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Tain rejected, because the election was not made within the time limited by act of Assembly; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the objection to the elder from the presbytery of North Isles delayed, till the gentleman appears to claim his seat in this Assembly.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced and read.

Resolved to consider the petition for Mr Patrick Wodrow, anent the attestation of the commission from the presbytery of Ayr, first on Monday.

An appeal of Mr John Kennedy, minister of Terregles, against a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, affirming several sentences of the presbytery of Dumfries, heard; the cause remitted to the presbytery of Dumfries, with an opinion, that their inserting Mr Kennedy's promise in their minutes was improper; and with instructions to the presbytery to strengthen Mr Kennedy's hands in the exercise of his ministry; and with an admonition

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tion to him to accommodate himself to the state of his parish.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery, and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1784. *Sess.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and read.

A motion made, to consider to-morrow the overtures from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning Patronage, with reasons of dissent, and answers; and the overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent a repeal of the law of Patronage, and the revival of the Act 1690; which motion was objected to; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *to-morrow.* The General Assembly therefore agreed to consider these overtures to-morrow; and also, to consider the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen and Angus and Mearns, at said diet, if there be time.

The Moderator appointed to name a Committee, to consider of the better ordering of the Assembly-house; and the names of said Committee to be read to-morrow.

Report

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Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

A Committee named to consider the reference from the presbytery of Dumblane, relating to Norriston, to report at a future diet.

Resolve to take up the cause of Mr M'Intosh and the parish of Moy, as the first private cause on Wednesday.

Synod-books called for. The Synod-books of Glenelg, Merse and Teviotdale, and Angus and Mearns, produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same; none of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, that the reasons for their not being brought up be enquired into.

Petition for Mr Patrick Wodrow, anent the attestation of the commission from the presbytery of Ayr heard. Found, that, in this case, there was no cause before the Assembly; and dismissed Mr Wodrow's complaint.

A Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; to report to an after diet.

The petition for Mr Alexander Duff, anent a marriage, and the overture anent the *ministerium vagum*, referred to the same Committee.

The cause of Dalton delayed till Thursday, and the whole proof hitherto taken ordered to be printed.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1784. *Sess.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

A Committee named to consider the better ordering of the Assembly-house, in consequence of the appointment of the former diet of Assembly.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

Petition for Alexander Blair of St Thomas's-wells, referred to the Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Presbytery of Dumblane, anent the inhabitants of Norriston.

Agreeable to yesterday's resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Glasgow and Ayr, and Perth and Stirling, relating to the repeal of the law of Patronage, &c.; and after reasoning at great length, two motions were made, and seconded, 1*st*, To reject these overtures as inexpedient,

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pedient, ill founded, and dangerous, to the peace and welfare of this Church: *2do*, That whereas, former Assemblies of the Church have, in strong terms, declared the law of Patronage to be a grievance; and the annual instructions to the Commission of every Assembly bear, that the Commission are to embrace every favourable opportunity that may occur, to obtain relief from this grievance; and whereas, in many parts of Scotland, the rigorous exercise of this law has been felt, and complained of as productive of most unhappy consequences both to Church and State; from all which, some alteration of the present law appears to be requisite; yet, as different sentiments are entertained upon this subject; therefore, with a view that the minds of those chiefly interested may be known, That the General Assembly do recommend the consideration of this matter to Presbyteries, ordaining them to consult, in the most prudent and respectful manner, with the Noblemen and Gentlemen of landed property, with the Magistrates and Town-Councils of Burghs within their bounds, persons chiefly concerned upon the points specified in this motion; and after deliberation, transmit the opinions they have received to the next General Assembly, that it may be known, what the sentiments of the Gentlemen of landed interest, and their constituents, are; that thus the Assembly may be enabled to regulate their procedure, upon a subject so interesting to the public at large, and to this Church in particular, *&c.* It was proposed, that one state of the vote be *Reject*, or *Not*; another state also was proposed, *viz. Reject*, or *Consult*. After reasoning on the state of the vote, the Assembly agreed, that the state of the vote be, *Reject*, or *Not*, it being understood, that if it carries Reject, the overtures be rejected in terms of the first motion; against which state of the vote, Mr Bryce Johnston protested. The question being then put, it carried by a great majority, *Reject*. The Assembly, therefore, rejected these Overtures as inexpedient, ill founded, and dangerous to the peace and welfare of this Church; against which, several members dissented.

Agreed to take up the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, as the first business to-morrow.

A member gave intimation, that he meant, at a future diet of this Assembly, to move, That a clause in the instructions

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instructions to the Commission relative to Patronage be altered.

The Committees for revising the Commission-book, the Royal Bounty-book, and Synod-books, and the Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet to-morrow morning, between nine and ten; and the Committee on public accounts to-morrow evening at six o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1784. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the protest of yesterday against the state of the vote on the overtures, relating to the repeal of the law of Patronage, *&c.*

Several members also adhered to the dissent against the decision of yesterday concerning these overtures.

The commission from the burgh of Wick was read, and sustained.

Agreeable to a resolution of yesterday, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and of Angus and Mearns. Two motions were made and seconded; *1st*, Do resolve, That it does not appear to this Assembly, that there is any reason for an innovation being made in the mode of settling vacant parishes; *2d*, That the overtures be rejected without assigning any reason. After reasoning, the Assembly appointed the state of the vote to be, *Approve of the first motion*, or, *Reject the overtures*. The question being put, it carried *Approve*. The Assembly, therefore, approved of the first motion. Against which, several members dissented.

Upon a motion, agreed, That the article which requires the Commission to apply to Parliament at a convenient season for deliverance from the grievance of Patronage, be left out of the instructions to be given to the commission to be appointed by this Assembly.

Agreed to take up the cause of Moy first to-morrow, and thereafter the cause of Dalton, if there be time.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1784. *Sess. 7th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, against the decision on the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns.

Upon

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Upon a motion, agreed to take in the petition of Mr Daniel Rose, at this meeting, if there be time.

Reasons of dissent against the sentence passed on Tuesday last, rejecting the overtures from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and the Synod of Perth and Stirling, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

The Committee on the reference concerning Norriston, appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half an hour after eight, in John's Coffeehouse.

The Procurator, Agent, Clerks, and Printer's accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

An appeal of Mr James M'Intosh, minister of Moy and Dalarossie, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, refusing him an exculpatory proof. After reasoning, the appeal rejected, because his reasons of appeal were not given in to the Presbytery within the days appointed by act of Assembly. Council were then heard on the merits of the cause; and after long reasoning, the Assembly waving the consideration of the sentences of the Synod of Moray, in respect that the additional proof taken by the Presbytery of Inverness, in consequence of the remit of last Assembly, was not before them; remit the whole cause to the Presbytery of Inverness, and appoint them to admit a proof of such relevant exculpatory facts and circumstances relating to the additional proof, as may be offered by Mr M'Intosh; and appoint him to give in a condescendence of these facts and circumstances to the Presbytery of Inverness, on or before the first day of August next; and appoint the said Presbytery to give judgment upon the whole proof, according to the laws of this Church; and, in the mean time, suspend Mr M'Intosh from the exercise of his ministry, till the final issue of this process, recommending to the Presbytery of Inverness to take care, that, during that time, the ordinances of religion be dispensed to these parishes.

Mr Daniel Rose not being present, the consideration of his complaint put off till a future diet.

A complaint of Mr James Lawson heard. The presbytery of Auchterarder ordered to allow Mr Lawson full extracts of every thing on their record, relating to this cause, so far as he shall demand, and attested copies of such papers as lie *in retentis*, if he shall demand them,

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all on or before the 12th of August next: And dismissed the other articles of his complaint.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet a quarter before eleven to-morrow, and the Committee for bills at half past nine.

Agreed to take in the cause of Dalton first to-morrow.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1784. *Sess.* 8*th*.

Sederunt.

Reasons of protest against the state of the vote concerning the overtures from the Synods of Glasgow and Ayr, and of Perth and Stirling, which were considered on Tuesday last, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Report of the Committee for classing overtures, given in, and read.

After long reasoning on the overture concerning the ordination of Elders, a motion was made, That in regard some expressions in said overture are not sufficiently definite, a Committee be appointed to consider the same, and report to this Assembly on Monday. Another motion was made, That if this matter be put to a vote, the state of the vote shall be, *Transmit to Presbyteries*, or, *Appoint a Committee*. And the question being put, it carried *Appoint*. The Assembly, therefore, appointed a Committee to consider said overture, and report on Monday.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Norriston affair, called for, produced and read. Approved, and the cause remitted to the Procurator and Agent, to be carried on at the public expence.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, *&c.*; ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

An appeal of Dr William Bryden, minister of the gospel at Dalton, against several references of the Synod of Dumfries. A petition for the Synod of Dumfries, and a petition for Robert Henderson of Cleugh-head, and others, prosecutors of Dr Bryden, heard. Dr Bryden withdrew his appeals. Thereafter, the Assembly proceeded to consider and judge of said references. The several articles considered one by one. As to the 1*st*, The propriety of putting Ann Dalziel on oath. A-

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greed without a vote, not to put Ann Dalziel on oath. 2*d*, As to the admissibility of Agnes Carruthers, as a witness in this cause, on account of her being aunt to one of the pursuers, and aunt-in-law to another. Allowed her to be examined as a witness *cum nota*. 3*d*, And as to the admissibility of Janet Gordon as a witness. Allowed her to be examined as a witness *cum nota*. The other points in this cause delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1784. *Sess.* 9*th*.

Sederunt.

The report of the trustees of the widow's fund called for, Dr Andrew Hunter, Preses of the last meeting of trustees, delivered to the Assembly several printed copies of the Trustees report, containing an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management; and informed the Assembly, That since the death of the late Dr Webster, General Collector of the Ministers Widows Fund, the Trustees had unanimously elected Dr James Macknight one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and Sir Harry Moncrieff-Welwood, one of the ministers of St Cuthberts, to execute the office of General Collector, or Receiver of said fund; and requested the Assembly to approve and confirm the said election. The General Assembly having heard and considered this part of the Trustees report, did unanimously approve and confirm the said Trustees election of Dr James Macknight, and of Sir Harry Moncrieff-Welwood, to execute the office of General Collector, or Receiver, of the fund established for a provision to Ministers widows, *&c.*; and appointed the Trustees report to lie on the table till Monday.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum disbursed by him; and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 30 : 16 : 9 $\frac{2}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum disbursed by him; and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 3 : 7 : 4 Sterling, being the balance due

due by him. And further appointing, that the newspapers be continued as an article in the Agent's annual account.

The report of the Visitors of the Commission-record given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The former appointment of a collection for defraying the expence of translating, &c. the Bible into the Gaelic language, renewed on those parishes who have neglected to make said collection.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

Synod-books not produced, ordered to be brought up to next Assembly.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed. The transaction with the Duke of Gordon ratified; and the Committee authorised to order the building of a proper church, &c.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the overture anent ordained assistants called for, given in, and read. Agreed to turn that report into an interim act, and to transmit it as an overture for the consideration of presbyteries.—*Vide* printed Acts.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the petition and complaint of the presbytery of Perth, respecting the conduct of the clerk of the kirk-session of Edinburgh called for, given in, and read. Agreed to appoint the Procurator for the Church to enquire into the circumstances of the particular case which was under the consideration of the Committee; and if he finds them such as to warrant a prosecution against the session-clerk of Edinburgh, that he be authorised to carry on a process before the competent courts against the said session-clerk, at the public expence. Further resolutions agreed to with respect to marriages, to be transmitted to presbyteries, and by them transmitted to the sessions of the parishes within their bounds.—*Vide* printed Acts.

The Committee on the overture respecting the ordination to the office of a minister, without relation to a particular

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particular charge, appointed to meet at half past nine on Monday morning.

The Committee on the better ordering the Assembly-house, to meet at ten o'clock on Monday morning.

Report of the Committee on new erections to be called for on Monday.

Proceeded to consider the remaining points in the cause of Dalton. Mr Henderson's appeal from the sentence of the presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing some of the libellers to withdraw their names from the libel, withdrawn. The sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, refusing decision on the whole cause in the present state of the process, affirmed. The proof on the part of the pursuers declared not concluded, with the admission and examination of the witnesses whose admissibility has been already determined. The Assembly then proceeded to consider Mr Henderson's appeal from the sentence of the presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing to read the minutes of presbytery of the 6th of April, on the 6th of May; and after reasoning, found, That in respect the pursuers did not appear before the presbytery on the 6th of April, and appeal against the sentence then pronounced, the pursuers were not entitled on the 6th of May to enter such an appeal; and that the presbytery of Lochmaben did right in refusing on the 6th of May to read the minute of the 6th of April: Therefore, affirmed the sentence of the presbytery of the 6th of May, and dismissed the appeal: Reserving to the pursuers to apply to the presbytery for an act and commission for examining witnesses in England and Ireland, as they should see cause.

Agreed to take in the cause of Cathcart first on Monday.

The complaint of Mr Daniel Rose, minister of Dingwall, complaining of the Synod of Ross, for allowing the presbytery of Tain to take Mr James Dallas on trials, in order to his being licensed a probationer of this Church, heard. The sentence of the Synod reversed; and the presbytery of Tain, or any other presbytery of this Church, discharged to take the said Mr James Dallas on trials, until he produce certificates of his having either given close attendance on the Divinity Hall for the space of four years, or certificates of his having continued to prosecute the study of Divinity for six years, in terms of the Act of Assembly 1782.

Agreed,

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Agreed, after the cause of Cathcart, to take up the cause of Melrose on Monday, and after that Mr Fortune's cause, if there be time.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1784. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent against the decision on the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

The report of the Trustees for managing the fund for a provision to minister's widows, *&c.* containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty-record, called for; the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for the better ordering of the Assembly-house was given in, read, and approved of.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the overture concerning the ordination of ministers without a particular charge, called for, given in, and read, approved of, and ordered to be printed among the Acts of Assembly. *Vide* Printed Acts.

The new overture anent the ordination of elders, called for, given in, and read; appointed to be transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide* Printed Acts.

The report of the Committee for erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands, read; and a new Committee appointed to attend to this important affair.

The report of the Committee on the window and house-tax given in, and read, and Committee continued; thanks ordered to the Right Honourable Mr Dundas, and Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, for their good offices in this affair.

The Procurator authorised to pay L. 20 Sterling to the representatives of Mr Robert Lumsden of Auchen-

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dore, for which he had formerly been ranked as a creditor on the public funds.

The account of ſtationary-ware due by the clerks to John and Elphinſton Balfours ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickſon, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

On a motion, recommended to the Committee on the Royal Bounty, in reſpect of the particular circumſtances of the united pariſhes of Moy and Dalaroſſie, and the ſtate of the country, to give what aſſiſtance is in their power to the Preſbytery of Inverneſs, for having the ordinances of religion diſpenſed to the people of theſe pariſhes, till the meeting of next Aſſembly.

An appeal at the inſtance of Colin Rae, Eſq; of Little Govan, patron of the pariſh of Cathcart, and others, againſt a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, refuſing to ſuſtain a call in favour of Mr Robert Buchanan at Leſmahago, to the pariſh of Cathcart, heard; the ſentence of the Preſbytery reverſed, and the call ſuſtained, and the Preſbytery of Glaſgow appointed to proceed in a proceſs of tranſportation of Mr Buchanan, from Leſmahago to Cathcart, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

The overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, concerning the parochial ſchoolmaſters of Scotland, read. The Aſſembly declare, That the parochial ſchoolmaſters are a body of men who have been highly uſeful in diffuſing knowledge and learning among the people of Scotland; and that, in the opinion of this Aſſembly, their preſent proviſion for maintenance is generally too ſmall, and therefore that they deſerve farther encouragement from the public.

The cauſe of Melroſe, and Mr Fortune's cauſe, and all other cauſes before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, and cauſes remitted by former Aſſemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commiſſion, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Proteſtations admitted.

A Committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſemblies proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

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The minutes of this ſederunt were read; the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.
The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.
The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.
Act appointing next General Aſſembly of this Church to meet on May 19. 1785.
The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, ſinging a pſalm, and pronouncing the bleſſing.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 19th Day of *May* 1785.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland*.

M,DCC,LXXXV.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 19th Day of *May* 1785, and concluded the 30th *May* said year.

I.

The King's Commission to David Earl of Leven produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19. 1785.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal

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Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis, hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum nonum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei*, Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus supremi nostri Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, et præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene ac liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerit, vel quovis tempore præterito facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dicto* Davidi Comiti de Leven, *tanquam supremo nostro Commissionario, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant, observant et obtemperant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem a dicto decimo nono die Maii proximi incipere, et in vigore esse et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus continuare, declaramus,*

declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus, Sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-quinto, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-quinto. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

Right Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The attention which you have shewn to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and the proofs you have given of your duty, loyalty, and attachment, to Our Person and Government, have a just claim to Our Royal Protection. We, therefore, have great satisfaction in renewing, upon the present occasion, Our assurances of a constant resolution to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by Law established, in the perfect enjoyment of her Rights and Privileges.

We cannot too warmly recommend to you the continuance of that harmony which will give dignity to your proceedings; and that, avoiding all narrow distinctions, private animosities, and personal altercations, you confine your deliberations to the great and laudable work of promoting Christian Virtue, and discouraging every tendency to vice and immorality, a system of conduct that cannot but be acceptable to Us, and of permanent advantage to the Church of Scotland.

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We have again made choice of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our Service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland; so that Our appointing him to that high and important Office cannot but be agreeable to you; and We trust, that this Meeting will be concluded with the same unanimity and brotherly affection, which have distinguished your former Assemblies; and so We bid you heartily farewel.

Given at Our Court at St James's, the 6th day of May 1785, in the twenty-fifth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE very gracious letter with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to such a distinguishing proof of your Royal Favour.

The satisfaction which your Majesty is pleased to express with our attention to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and with our duty, loyalty, and attachment, to your Majesty's Person and Government, is a fresh and very powerful motive to induce us to apply ourselves, with

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with zeal and activity, to diffuse among the people committed to our care, the warmest sentiments of Religion, and the most grateful sense of your Majesty's mild and constitutional Government.

We receive, with the greatest satisfaction, the renewed assurances of your Majesty's constant resolution to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by Law established, in the complete enjoyment of her Rights and Privileges; and we rely on them with the most perfect confidence.

We have received, with the utmost respect, your Royal Recommendation of the continuance of that harmony, which will give dignity to our proceedings; and we are happy in the persuasion, that, by avoiding all narrow distinctions, private animosities, and personal altercations, and, by confining our deliberations to the great and laudable work of promoting Christian Virtue, and discouraging every tendency to vice and immorality, we shall render ourselves acceptable to your Majesty; and we are fully convinced, that such a system of conduct will, at the same time, be of permanent advantage to the Church of Scotland.

We have had so much experience, on former occasions, of the loyalty, integrity, and zeal for your Majesty's service, of the Noble Lord, whom your Majesty hath been pleased to appoint to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, and we are so fully satisfied of his exemplary regard for Religion, and his particular affection for the Church of Scotland, that we cannot but consider your Majesty's repeated nomination of him, as an additional mark of your Royal Favour to us.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that it is our firm resolution to conduct the business of this Assembly, with that unanimity and brotherly affection, which, we trust, will secure to us the continuance of your Majesty's approbation, and which we know to be essentially requisite to promote the great purposes for which we are assembled. Your Majesty's Donation of one thousand pounds, we accept with all gratitude, as a proof of the continuance of your Majesty's paternal concern for the spiritual as well as temporal interests of your people, even in the most remote and uncultivated parts of your kingdoms, and it shall be our study to apply it in such a manner as may most effectually promote the pious and benevolent purposes of the Royal Donor.

That

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That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may bless your Majesty with all spiritual and temporal blessings, and render your reign long and prosperous; that the favour of Divine Providence may ever attend your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen; and that the Most High may be the Guardian and Protector of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and of all your Royal Family, are, and ever shall be, the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

H. MONCRIEFF-WELLWOOD, *Mod.*

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, Bart. one of the ministers of the West Church, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramsay at Strathaen, Mr Robert Farquharson

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quharson at Logy Coldstone, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsalmond, Mr George Skeene Keith at Keith-hall, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Alexander Simpson at Fraserburgh, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamery, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr George Algernon Gordon at Keith, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, Mr John Anderson at Kingusich, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Leslie at St Andrews, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkillie, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Price Campbell at Arderfier, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avock, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskine, Mr James Grant, at Laggan, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr John Fraser at Locks, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr Roderick Morrison at Kintail, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr James Dingwall at Far, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr James Somervill at Whitburn, Mr John Fraser at Libberton, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranston, Mr Andrew Smith at Langton, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smallholm, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Richard Scott at Ewis, Mr Jacob Dickson at Mousewald, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortown, Mr Brice Johnston at Holywood, Mr Alexander Macgowan at Dalry, Mr John Inglis at Kirkmabreck, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenstone, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Dugald Campbell at Ross, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Mr

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William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr James Dymmock at Aberfoil, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Samuel Martin at Monimail, Dr John Adamson at St Andrews, Professor George Hill, St Andrews, Mr Thomas Masson at Glenisla, Mr Thomas Wright at Rescobie, Mr James Henderson at Monyfeith, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkeiler, Mr David Miller at Edzill, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Ministers; James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, Mr William Macdonald of Reneton, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; Lord Henderland, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr John Russell, *junior*, clerk to the Signet, the Honourable Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant, writer to the Signet, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon writer, Walter Dunbar, Esq; Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Bailie John Walker, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Donald Smith, Esq; Edinburgh, Mr James Fraser writer to the Signet, the Procurator, Mr Bannatyne-William Macleod, advocate, Professor Hugh Macleod, Bailie Daniel Miller, Bailie James Torry, Edinburgh, Mr George Home baker, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway, John Grieve, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, the Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener William Jamieson, Mr James Home writer to the Signet, Lord Chief Baron, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Lord President, Earl of Hyndford, David Smith, Esq; Haddington, Charles Brown, Esq; of Coalston, Robert Hunter, Esq; of Thurston, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, Earl of Lauderdale, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh, Gideon Rutherford, Esq; Alexander Fergusson, Esq; advocate, Alexander Gordon, Esq; advocate, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, James Colquhoun, Esq; John Lamont, Esq; Mr John Home of Kilduff, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, Allan Macdougal, Esq; Thomas Elder, Esq; Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; Edinburgh, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, Bailie James Gentle, Sir Charles Preston, Major John Melvill, Neil Fergusson,

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gusson, Esq; Dr Andrew Duncan, Honourable Henry Erskine, Mr Thomas Milne, Canongate, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Mr William Leslie writer to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies:

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blies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named

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named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That, at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of

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the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, one of the ministers of the West Church, their moderator; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr Robert Wyatt at Skeene, ministers, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, George Strachan-Keith, Esq; of Auquhorsh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Kincardine-o'neal, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramsay at Strathaen, Mr Robert Farquharson at Logy Coldstone,

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Coldstone, ministers, William Macdonald of Renneton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellen, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr William Duff at Foveran, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsalmond, Mr George Skeene-Keith at Keithhall, Mr John Harper at Leslie, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; of Smeaton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kintore, the Right Honourable Lord Henderland; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Alexander Fraser at Frasersburgh, ministers, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamory, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Banff, Mr John Russell *junior*, clerk to the Signet; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr George Algernon-Gordon at Keith, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, ministers, the Honourable Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kinguisie, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Leslie at St Andrews and Langbride, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkillie, Mr James Gillen at Kinloss, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Pryce Campbell at Arderfier, ministers, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, deficient in number of members; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch, ministers, Bailie John Walker, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack,

Mr

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Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskine, Mr James Grant at Laggan, ministers, James Fraser of Gortuleg, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, Mr James Forrest, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr John Fraser at Lochs, ministers, Mr William Robertson, procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver, at Lochalsh, Mr Roderick Morison at Kintail, ministers, Bannatyne-William Macleod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr James Dingwall at Far, ministers, Lieutenant-General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, ministers, bailie James Torry, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr George Home, baker in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Patrick Mair at Bressay, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Drysdale, Edinburgh, Mr James Craig at Currie, Mr John Gibson at West Church, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Dr David Johnston at North Leith, ministers, Bailie William Galloway, John Grieve, Esq; Mr Solicitor Dundas, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable James Hunter-Blair, Lord Provost of the city, Mr William Jamieson, deacon-convener of the trades; from the University of Edinburgh, Dr Andrew Hunter, Professor of Divinity; from the church of Campvere, Mr Alexander Wilson, minister at Campvere, Mr James Turing, factor at the Staple Port of Campvere; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenside, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr James Somerville at Whitburn, Mr William Finlay at Polmont, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cunningham, the Honourable Captain Robert Sandilands,

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Sandilands, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan, merchant, Queensferry; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr John Fraser at Liberton, ministers, Mr James Home, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, Mr William Welch at Manner, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Alexander Colvil at Ormiston, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranston, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvat, Mr George Goldie at Atholstonford, Mr Hugh Cunningham at Tranent, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, David Smith, Esq; present Provost of Haddington; from the burgh of North Berwick, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Ewen at Whitingham, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, ministers, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Andrew Smith at Langton, Mr William Simson at Greenlaw, ministers, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Couston, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr George Couples at Swinton, Mr Philip Redpath at Hutton, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lauder, Dr Alexander Duncan, at Smelholm, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, ministers, the Right Honourable Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Steven Oliver at Maxton, Mr William Campbell at Lillies-leaf, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod, merchant, Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr James Gatt at Grateney, Mr Alexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick Fleming, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott, merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, Mr John Russell at Canonbie, ministers,

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Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Dr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, Mr Jacob Dickson at Mousewald, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, ministers, Mr Peter Haliday at Barntrimphin, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortown, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, ministers, Mr Thomas Harkness in Closeburn, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr James Macmillan at Torthorwall, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr Joseph Kirkpatrick at Dunscore, ministers, Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Mr John Aitken, one of the town-clerks of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Alexander Macgowan at Dalry, Mr Samuel Smith at Carsfairn, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, ministers, Mr John Macminn in Crossmichael, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr John Inglis at Kirkmabreck, Mr Andrew Donan at Wigton, ministers, Mr John Macgill in Barr, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn, Mr John Bushby, Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Ayr, Dr Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Duncan Macmyne at Dalmellington, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr William Logan at Symington, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenstone, Mr George Lawrie at Loudon, Mr Alexander Gillies at Kilmaurs, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Snodgrass at Paisley, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr John Monteith *junior* at Nielston, ministers, Mr John Haddoway, merchant in Leith, Mr John Fergusson, merchant in Paisley, ruling elders; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr Robert King, farmer in Renfrew; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr John Rish at Dalserf, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Mr Alexander Ranken at Cambusnethen, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmahago, ministers, Mr John Dymock, ruling elder; from

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from the burgh of Lanark, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr Joseph Hodgeson at Carmunnock, Mr James Forlong at Rutherglen, ministers, Mr John Fergusson, merchant, Mr Andrew Paton, merchant, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Professor George Jardine; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr James Oliphant at Dumbarton, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; younger of Luss; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, Mr John Home of Kilduff; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmonel, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Mr Lauchlane Maclauchlane, assistant minister at Inveraray, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inveraray, Dr James Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Moonzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Dougal Campbell at Ross, ministers, Allan Macdougal, Esq; of Galanach, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Fergusson at Moulin, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr William Macritchie at Clunie, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, ministers, Thomas Elder, Esq; merchant, Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr John Dow at Methven, ministers, Mr John Caw, merchant in Perth, Mr John Dickson, advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Thomson at St Ninians, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, ministers, Convener John Hutton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, John Erskine, Esq; younger of Cambus, advocate; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Ramsay at Madertie, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery

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presbytery of Dumblane, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr James Dymock at Aberfoil, ministers, John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Thomas Fernie at Dunfermline, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culross, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, Baronet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr William Moodie at Kirkcaldy, Mr Andrew Grant at Polmoack, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald, Esq; of Dunnikier, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Duncan, merchant, Kirkcaldy; from the burgh of Dysart, Bailie John Melvill, Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Mr Samuel Martin at Monimail, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr Andrew Brown at Falkland, ministers, Mr John Dall at Priestfield, Mr David Laurie at Hill-Carnie, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairny; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr John Adamson at St Andrews, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monance, Mr Alexander Brodie at Carnbee, Mr James Brown at Newburn, ministers, Lieutenant-colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmillie, Niel Ferguson, Esq; of Pitcullo, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr Alexander Meldrum; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr Thomas Mason at Glenisla, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Mr James Hill at Ruthven, ministers, Patrick Alison, Esq; of Newhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Henderson at Monyfieth, Mr David Spence at Kinnaird, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkiller, Mr William Milligen at Kirkden, ministers, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr David Miller at Edzell, Mr Robert Hannay at Strickathrow, Mr Alexander Peter at Logie Port, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Mr John Hutchison at Fettercsso, Mr James Walker at Dunotter, ministers, Mr John Playfair,

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Playfair, ruling elder; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproven of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered

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to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and report such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same: And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission,

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mission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VI.

Interim Act and Overture concerning Ordained Assistants.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that

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that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

VII.

Recommendation respecting Ordination to the Office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

THE Committee appointed to consider the Overture respecting Ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follows: Having carefully considered the said Overture, find that matter attended with so many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propose to the General Assembly any precise rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into standing laws; and can only move, That the Assembly should, in the mean time, recommend it to Presbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to such persons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reasonable prospect of such provision as may enable them to support the ministerial character; and that no Presbytery grant ordination to any person who has a near prospect of removing from the bounds of that Presbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it shall by them be found necessary or proper. Which being considered by the General Assembly, they approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

VIII.

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VIII.

A new Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

IX.

Overture from the Synod of Fife, respecting the second paragraph of the Act passed in 1782, concerning the Licensing of Probationers, ordered by the Assembly to be transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1785.

THAT it shall not be competent for the Professors of Divinity, in the several Universities of Scotland, to inrol any person as a Student of Divinity, who does not produce to them at the time of his desiring to be inrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing, That he has gone through a full course of

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philosophy at some of the Universities: And that it shall not be competent for the presbyteries of this Church to admit any person to probationary trials, unless the testimonials which he brings from the Professors of Divinity bear, that such diploma or certificate had been produced at the time of his being inrolled.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 18th day of May, in the year 1786.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1785, which are not printed at full length.

May 19. 1785. *Sess. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr John Drysdale, a letter was presented, addressed to the Moderator, from Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, informing the Assembly, that, through indisposition, he was prevented from attending his duty, as Agent and Assistant-clerk, in the present Assembly, and recommending William Murray, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, as a proper person to officiate for him; the Assembly sustained Mr Cairncross's excuse, and appointed Mr Murray to officiate in his place.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Drysdale proposed Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, one of the ministers of the West Church. No other person being added to the nomination, the roll was called, and votes marked; and the Assembly unanimously made choice of the said Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood to be their Moderator, who, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

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A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.
A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.
A Committee for overtures named.
A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.
Adjournment.

May 20. 1785. *Sess.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.
A diet spent in prayer.
New commissions produced.
The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening.
Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.
Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.
The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.
Adjournment.

May 21. 1785. *Sess.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.
New commissions produced.
The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.
The commission from the burgh of Aberbrothock rejected, because the *designation* of the presbytery by whom it is attested, is a-wanting, and likewise, because the word *day* is interlined. The Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.
The commission from the burgh of Innerkeithing rejected, because, in the attestations by the kirk-session, and by the presbytery, it is not certified, that the elder *resides* and *officiates*, and none of the other alternatives are inserted, which the form prescribes. The Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.
The commission from the burgh of Banff rejected, because the election is made upon the 16th of April, which is not within the time limited by act of Assembly, and because

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cause it wants both the attestation of the kirk-session, and of the presbytery; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Inverness rejected, because there were not ten free days between the resolution and the day of election; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The overtures transmitted, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

Resolved to consider the causes from Dalton and Melrose, in succession, on Monday, before any other cause.

Agreed, That the parties in the above causes have their cases laid on the clerks table, before ten o'clock on Monday morning.

An appeal at the instance of Mr Thomas Smith, minister at Cumbertrees, against the presbytery of Annan's attesting Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh, as a member of Assembly for the burgh of Annan, heard. Found, That there was no cause before the Assembly. The papers transmitted, therefore dismissed.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May

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May 23. 1785. *Sess.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and read.

Synod-books called for. The Synod-books of Glenelg, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, and Fife, produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same. None of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, That the reasons for their not being brought up, be enquired into. The excuse sustained for the Synod-book of Dumfries not being produced.

The roll of causes transmitted from the Committee for bills, called for, produced and read.

A Committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

A Committee named to reconsider the better ordering of the Assembly-house, and appointed to give in their report on Saturday morning.

An appeal of Robert Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, libellers of Dr William Bryden, minister of Dalton, a petition for the said Dr Bryden, and a petition for the Synod of Dumfries, read. Agreed to consider, *first*, the reference from the Synod of Dumfries: 1*st*, Whether the two following questions should be put to Ann Carruthers, *viz.* 1*st*, If ever she remembers that Dr Bryden damn'd her for a smoke-dried bitch? 2*d*, Whether Mr Nicol, when at Dr Bryden's, asked her, Whether or not she thought Ann Dalzell with child, and if he did not say to her, that it was his opinion she was with child? After long reasoning on the above two questions, a motion was made and seconded, That the sentence of the Presbytery, refusing to put these questions, should be reversed. Another motion made and seconded, Because these questions contained and implied in them, the precise answer wished for, and expected by the party pursuer, they should be considered as leading questions improperly put to the witness, and that therefore the Presbytery's sentence, refusing to put them, should be affirmed. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Affirm* or *Reverse*. The question being then put, it carried, *Affirm*. The Assembly therefore affirmed the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing

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refusing to put the above questions to Ann Carruthers. As to the other two questions, *1st*, Whether or not, while in the Doctor's service, she Agnes Carruthers ever saw or observed any indecent behaviour, or too much familiarity between Dr Bryden and Mrs Rae? and, *2d*, Whether or not she was of opinion, and suspected that the person whose foot she heard coming and going between the Doctor's and Mrs Rae's room was Dr Bryden? the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing to put the two foresaid questions to Ann Carruthers. As to the question put to Adam Aitchison, Whether or not Janet Gordon afterwards told him the reason of her asking the key of the barn, and what further conversation passed between them on that subject? the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery, refusing to put the above question. As to the examination of George Millar, the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, appointing the said George Millar to be admitted as a witness, *cum nota*. The Assembly reversed the sentence of the Synod, allowing the proof to go on, and reversing the Presbytery's interlocutor of the 7th of September, in respect that that part of the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, which found the proof concluded, was not regularly before them. The Assembly then proceeded to consider the reference of the Synod of Dumfries, concerning the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben on the 2d of November, refusing to go on with the proof, and to grant commission for examining witnesses beyond the bounds of the Presbytery. After reasoning for some time, the Assembly adjourned this cause till to-morrow, and summoned parties to attend *apud acta*.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1785. *Sess. 5th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Causes fixed.

 Resumed

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Resumed consideration of the cause of Dr Bryden, and agreed to take it up upon the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben of the whole cause. Dr Bryden declared, That he had no objection to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, their granting commission to the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or to any other Presbytery within this Church, to examine witnesses residing in their respective bounds; whereupon, the Assembly ordained and appointed the said Presbytery of Lochmaben to grant commission for the purpose foresaid, to all and every Presbytery of this Church, within whose bounds the witnesses adduced by the parties do or may reside. After long reasoning on the question, Whether the Presbytery of Lochmaben should be ordained and instructed to grant commissions for examining witnesses residing in England and Ireland? a motion was made, and seconded, To remit this cause to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, with instructions to them to grant such commission to a person to be named by the defender, and approved of by the Presbytery, betwixt and the first Wednesday of August next; whom failing, to any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in that place where the witnesses reside, or other competent Judge; and to them to empower the said commissioner to examine witnesses living out of Scotland, for whose non-appearance before the Presbytery of Lochmaben sufficient cause is shewn, providing that the party requiring the same shall condescend upon the facts to be proved by these witnesses, and special interrogatories to be put to them, which shall appear to the Court to be relevant: And allowing said commissioner to put such cross interrogatories arising from the answers given by the witnesses, as may be suggested by the defender or his counsel; requiring further, previous intimation to be given to the parties fourteen days before the examination. Another motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly remit to the Presbytery with instructions not to grant commission for examining witnesses without the bounds of this kingdom. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Grant*, or *Not*, it being understood that if it carry *Grant*, the first motion should be adopted; and if *Not*, the second motion. The question being put, it carried *Grant*. The Assembly, therefore, adopted the first motion: And further ordained the Presbytery of Lochmaben, at some meeting on or before the first

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first day of October next, to put the questions, and examine the witnesses mentioned in the minutes of yesterday; and also, to examine any persons in the original list of witnesses, who shall appear on or before the said day: But they declare, That if no witnesses appear, or no application is made for a commission to examine witnesses out of Scotland, on or before the said day, the Presbytery are instructed, against the 1st of January 1786, to hold the proof as concluded, and to give judgment upon it; and in case any commission shall be required, ordain, That the proof taken upon it shall be reported to the Presbytery within three months after the date of the commission. Thereafter, a petition for the prosecutors of Dr Bryden to the Assembly was given in, praying either to grant commission in terms similar to that given in Mr Lyal's case, or to appoint correspondents, as therein stated, or such other form as to the Assembly should seem meet. The Assembly unanimously dismissed the petition.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1785. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

The Procurator, Agent, Clerks, and Printer's accounts, produced, and ordered to lie on the Table.

A petition for the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, praying for a Collection, was given in, and read. The Assembly appointed a general Collection over the Church, for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary; to be made in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, on or before the first Sunday of August next, and through the rest of the kingdom, on such days as shall be fixed by the several Presbyteries within their respective bounds, before February next: The money collected to be transmitted to Mr Archibald Hope, Secretary to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Treasurer to the Royal Infirmary.

Resolve to consider the cause of Newburgh after that of Mr Macindoe; after which, the cause of Eskdalemuir; and then that of the parish of Cathcart.

Several appeals in the cause, Robert Grierson and others, elders of the parish of Melrose, against Mr Frederick Maclaggan,

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Maclaggan, minister of Melrose, heard. *1st*, An appeal against a judgment of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, and allowing Isobel Mein (the person with whom Mr Maclaggan is charged to have committed adultery) to be admitted as a witness for proving the objections against Janet Bunzie, one of the witnesses for the prosecutors: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and allowed Isobel Mein to be examined, *cum nota*. *2d*, An appeal against a sentence of the Synod of the 28th October last, finding, that a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, pronounced on the 15th June preceding, so far as it relates to the relevancy of the facts condescended on to prove the objections against Janet Bunzie, and to set her aside from being a witness, is final, and affirming said sentence of Presbytery: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod; reserving to both parties to be heard before the Presbytery, how far the facts deponed to by these witnesses are relevant to affect the admissibility or credibility of Janet Bunzie. *3d*, An appeal against a judgment of the Synod, of the said 28th October, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, pronounced on the 11th of August preceding, and allowing Mr William Scott, Procurator-fiscal of the shire of Edinburgh, and Mr James Gray, writer in Edinburgh, the agent for the prosecutors, to be examined on all facts and circumstances that are relevant to set aside William Reid from being a witness, whether they came to the knowledge of these facts before or since they were employed as agents; excepting always such facts and circumstances as were committed to them in confidence by their employers: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod, admitting the evidence of Messrs Scott and Gray. *4th*, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 28th October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 9th September preceding, and ordaining the prosecutors either to retract an assertion, That Mr Maclaggan desired Isobel Mein to give up Robert Bunzie as the father of her children, or undertake to give him a libel thereon: The Assembly unanimously affirmed the sentence of the Synod. *5th*, An appeal against a judgment of said Synod of 28th October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 20th of

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said month, refusing a petition for the prosecutors to serve an additional list of witnesses on Mr Maclaggan, and to prorogate the term for concluding the proof: The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod. *6th*, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 28th October, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 20th of that month, and refusing to suspend Mr Maclaggan from the exercise of his office of Minister, during the dependence of the process: The Assembly affirmed the sentences of the Synod and of the Presbytery, refusing to suspend Mr Maclaggan. *7th*, An appeal against a judgment of the said Synod of 26th April last, in so far as it declares, that their reversal of the sentence of the Presbytery of Selkirk, and allowing Agnes Fairbairn to be examined as a witness for the prosecutors, should not be made a precedent for the examination of any other witnesses whatever, who either did, do, or shall reside within the bounds of the Presbytery of Selkirk: The counsel for the prosecutors at the bar passed from the same. *8th*, An appeal against a judgment of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 5th current, refusing to delay giving judgment on the proof adduced in support of the second libel, till the proof of the first libel shall be concluded; and also, refusing to allow the depositions of some of the witnesses adduced in support of the first libel, to be repeated in proof of the second, and finding themselves barred from doing otherwise, by a sentence pronounced by them on the 12th October preceding. The Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Presbytery. *9th*, An appeal against a sentence of the said Presbytery of Selkirk, rejecting a petition as inadmissible, which crayed a diligence against witnesses, for proving material facts *noviter venientia ad notitiam* of the prosecutors: The Assembly found this appeal inadmissible. *10th*, An appeal against a judgment of the Presbytery of Selkirk of the 12th instant, resolving to allow Isobel Mein, Mrs Stevenson, and Jassy Turnbull, to be examined as witnesses for Mr Maclaggan, to prove his objections against Janet Bunzie and William Reid. The counsel for the prosecutors at the bar passed from this appeal. Thereafter heard a reference by the Presbytery of Selkirk, of the said 12th current, of the whole of the evidence against the admissibility of Janet Bunzie, and William Reid, as witnesses. The Assembly, in respect of a requisition

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quisition made by both parties at the bar, and, in respect of the special circumstances of this case, appointed the Committee of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, formerly employed in taking evidence in this cause, to examine the remainder of the evidence against the admissibility of William Reid and Janet Bunzie, and directed the said Committee to report to the Assembly on Monday next; and deferred the consideration of the reference above mentioned, till the report is made; also delayed consideration of the reference on the proof of the second libel till Monday.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1785. *Sess.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The Committee on public accounts and new applications, and the Committees for revising the Commission-record, and the Royal Bounty-record, appointed to meet to-morrow, at half past ten in the Society-hall.

The Synod-books of Angus and Mearns produced, and a Committee appointed to revise the same.

A motion concerning the Form of Process given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Proceeded to consider the overtures from the Presbytery of Dumfries, from the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, and from the Synod of Dumfries, relating to the Law of Patronage. The following motion was made and seconded, That the General Assembly do appoint and ordain the several Presbyteries within this Church, in the most prudent and respectful manner, to consult the Noblemen and Gentlemen of landed property, as also the Royal Boroughs within their respective bounds, upon the following points, *viz.* 1*mo*, Whether they desire, that any alteration should take place upon the act 1712, restoring Patronage, as it has been of late explained and enforced by the decisions of General Assemblies: Or, 2*do*, Whether they would desire, in place of that act, as it now stands, the restitution of the mode of settling ministers, established by the act 1690; or, the restitution of that act, with amendments. Or, *lastly*, such

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ſuch reſtrictions upon the act 1712, reſtoring Patronage, as might prevent the bad conſequences which are apprehended to have ariſen from it. And that the Aſſembly do appoint the ſeveral Preſbyteries to proceed in this matter with all convenient ſpeed, and report the iſſue of their diligence to the next General Aſſembly. Another motion was made and ſeconded, To diſmiſs the overtures. After reaſoning at great length, the Aſſembly agreed to the following ſtate of the vote, *Conſult*, or *Diſmiſs*. The queſtion being then put, it carried, *Diſmiſs*. The Aſſembly therefore diſmiſſed the ſaid overtures, againſt which ſeveral members diſſented.

Proceeded to conſider the overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent reſtoring the clauſe in the inſtructions to the Commiſſion, which was, laſt General Aſſembly, ordered to be ſtruck out. The Aſſembly agreed, without a vote, to diſmiſs the ſaid overture.

Adjournment.

May 27. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the diſſent of yeſterday, againſt the deciſion on the overtures reſpecting the Law of Patronage.

A motion made for appointing a Committee to reviſe the Form of Proceſs. A Committee appointed accordingly.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet.

A complaint againſt a ſentence of the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, for allowing the Preſbytery of Glaſgow to take Mr James Macindoe, ſtudent in divinity, on trials, in order to his being licenſed to preach the goſpel, heard. The ſentence of the Synod reverſed; and found, That it is not competent for the Synod to allow the Preſbytery to take Mr Macindoe upon trials, till the ſentence of expulſion pronounced upon him by the College of Glaſgow for contumacy, be removed; thereafter, a complaint againſt a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, for proceeding on the trials of Mr Macindoe, heard, and the ſentence of the Preſbytery reverſed.

Adjournment.

May

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May 28. 1785. *Sess.* 9*th.*

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for the better ordering of the Assembly-house, given in and read, and approved of as follows: I. That three benches on each side of the house should be railed off for the accommodation of strangers; II. That no person be admitted into the middle of the house, except members of Assembly, ministers, those who attend the Lord Commissioner, and parties with their counsel and agents; III. That each member, at his first attendance on the Assembly, shall give his name in writing to the beadles at the door; IV. That John Grieve, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, be appointed to carry these alterations into execution, before the meeting of the next General Assembly.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in and read.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum received by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 67 : 10 : 8 $\frac{9}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum received by him, and appointing that he credit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 7 : 18 : 3 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The account of stationary-ware due by the clerks to Mr Elphinston Balfour, ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

The Procurator gave in a report respecting the state of the public money, and new applications thereanent; ordered to lie on the table till Monday. Thanks returned to the Procurator for his diligence and assiduity in the affairs of the Church.

Report by the Committee appointed to consider new applications for shares of the public money, *&c.* read and approved of.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr William Milligan, minister at Kirkden, the sum of L. 50 Sterling, in case it shall appear, that a balance to that amount is still due

due for carrying on his appeal, but not to exceed that ſum.

The Procurator authoriſed to pay to Mr John Ewart, miniſter at Troqueer, the ſum of L. 20 Sterling, againſt the term of Whitſunday 1786.

The Procurator authoriſed to pay to Mr Robert Mathie, miniſter at Glendovan, the ſum of L. 15 Sterling, at the term of Whitſunday 1786.

The proceſs in which Mr Patrick Macarthur, miniſter at Toroſay, is engaged reſpecting a glebe, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to carry on at the public expence.

The Procurator authoriſed to pay to Mr John Martin, miniſter of Meritoun, the ſum of L. 20 Sterling, at the term of Whitſunday 1786.

The proceſs in which Mr William Mitchell, miniſter at Tingwall is engaged, relative to the building a church, and likewiſe the proceſs for an augmentation at his inſtance, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried through at the public expence of the Church.

The proceſs at the inſtance of Mr Robert Mutter, miniſter at Kirkcudbright, for a certain ſum in name of manſe-rent, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to be carried through at the public expence.

The Committee for reviſing the commiſſion-record, ordered to give in their report on Monday.

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty-record called for; the report, and alſo the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be atteſted.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be atteſted.

Synod-books not produced, ordered to be brought up to next Aſſembly.

The Committee on new erections gave in a report, which being conſidered, the Aſſembly, upon a motion, renewed the Committee, with inſtructions, to renew their application for an appropriation of part of the money ariſing from the reſtoration of the forfeited eſtates, for the purpoſes mentioned in the Committee's

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report, and to take every measure that may appear to them proper for attaining that valuable object.

The report of the trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management being given in, the same was ordered to lie on the table till next diet; and the thanks of the House given to the Moderator, as collector, for his care and attention to said fund.

A petition for Mr Alexander Wilson, minister of the Scots Church at Campvere in Zealand, praying to be admitted upon the Widows scheme; the Assembly unanimously recommended the same to the trustees for managing the ministers widows funds for their consideration.

A petition for Robert Grierson and others, elders of the parish of Melrose, read; the Assembly appointed the petitioners to give in a condescendence of the facts they offered to prove, and a list of witnesses by whom they were to prove the same, and that before the rising of this sederunt, and to shew both these to the other party, before producing them to the Assembly.

An appeal of the Magistrates and Town-council of Newburgh, heard; the sentence of the Synod of Fife sustaining the call given by John Hay of Leys, Esq; to Mr Thomas Stewart to be minister of the parish and church of Newburgh, affirmed, and the Presbytery of Cupar appointed to proceed in the settlement of Mr Stewart to be minister of said parish, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Mr John Lawrie, presentee to the parish of Eskdalemuir, and for the Duke of Buccleugh, the patron, and others, heard; the sentence of the Presbytery of Langholm sustaining the call to Mr Lawrie affirmed, and the Presbytery of Langholm appointed to proceed in the settlement of Mr John Lawrie to be minister of the said parish of Eskdalemuir, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Agreeable to the appointment in a former part of this sederunt, Robert Grierson and others, libellers of Mr Frederick Maclaggan gave in the condescendence, with the list of witnesses then ordered, which was read; and having resumed consideration of the petition, and considered the condescendence, the Assembly refused the

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the desire of the petition, and dismissed the same, the condescendence appearing irrelevant and frivolous.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1785. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Upon a motion, Instead of renewing the former Committee on new erections, a new Committee appointed. The Procurator Convener.

Reasons of dissent against the decision on the overtures concerning Patronage, given in, openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Report by the Procurator respecting the state of the public money, again called for, and unanimously approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-record, given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The Synod-book of *Merse and Teviotdale*, and the Synod-book of *Fife*, ordered to be attested.

The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers widows, *&c.* containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose.

Instructions from the Presbytery of Dumbarton to their Commissioners, concerning the laws against profaneness, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, in terms thereof.

List of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Overture from the Synod of Fife respecting the residence of ministers, dismissed as unnecessary.

Overture from the Synod of Fife, respecting the act of Assembly, concerning the licensing of probationers, heard. The Assembly appoint the first part of said overture to be transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide* printed Acts.

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A Committee appointed to consider the overture from the Synod of Angus and Mearns on the *ministerium vagum*, and to report their opinion of any amendments they may think necessary to next Assembly.

Overture from the Synod of Murray on the protracting of settlements, dismissed.

All the overtures transmitted by last Assembly with the interim act, appointed to be retransmitted. *Vide* printed Acts.

An appeal of James Hall and others, parishioners of the parish of Cathcart, heard. The sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr appealed from, affirmed. And the Presbytery of Glasgow appointed to proceed to the settlement of Mr David Dow, to be minister of the Church and parish of Cathcart, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Mr James Lawson heard, and dismissed.

A petition for Dr Hugh Blair, with a memorial of Mr Hugh Fraser, minister of the Congregation of Shelburn in Nova Scotia, craving a collection through the different parishes in Scotland; and the copy of a grant of land for building a church or meeting-house, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

An appeal of Mr Alexander Macgowan, minister of Dalry, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, respecting the places of meeting of said Presbytery, heard. The sentence of the Presbytery affirmed.

An appeal of Mr James Fortune, student in divinity, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, heard. The sentence of the Synod affirmed.

The cause against Mr Maclaggan remitted to the Commission, it being now late, and the counsel for the prosecutors declaring, that he had no objection thereto.

A petition and complaint at the instance of Jean Purves, relict of John Tuck, feuer in Coldingham, against Mr John Jollie minister of Coldingham, heard. The complaint ordered to be served on Mr Jolly, and he ordained to be summoned to sist himself personally before the Commission in August next to make answer to said complaint, and the Clerk of Assembly appointed to transmit an extract of this sentence to the Presbytery of Churnside, appointing them to summon Mr Jolly to the said diet of the Commission in August.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power

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power to them to judge and finally determine therein.
Proteſtations admitted.
A Committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.
The minutes of this ſederunt were read. The minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.
The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly, and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.
The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.
Act appointing next General Aſſembly of this Church, to meet on May 18. 1786.
The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, ſinging a pſalm, and pronouncing the bleſſing.

FINIS.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 18th Day of *May* 1786.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland*.

M,DCC,LXXXVI.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 18th Day of *May* 1786, and concluded the 29th *May* said Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 18. 1786.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal

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Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor; Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum octavum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei,* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omnia alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alias in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ut si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte præcipimus et mandamus: Atque hunc nostram Commissionem a dicto decimo octavo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus,*

declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, huic præsenti cartæ nostræ, sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandamus; apud aulam nostram St James's, duodecimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo sexto, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo sexto.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. It is with great satisfaction, that We avail Ourselves of this opportunity of renewing to you those testimonies of Our paternal affection, which your duty and loyalty to Us, and your steady attention to the important concerns of Religion and Virtue, deserve at Our hands.

We do most willingly countenance your present meeting, with Our Royal approbation and authority, from a firm persuasion, that you will continue to promote the happiness of Our Reign, and that you will apply your whole attention to the pursuit of such measures as may best tend to the support of the Christian faith, the advancement of true religion and piety, and the suppression of irreligion and licentiousness; you may be assured that such a conduct on your part, will, at all times, meet with Our hearty concurrence and support, and that We shall continue in Our determination to preserve and maintain to the Church of Scotland, as by law establish-

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ed, the full and free enjoyment of its rights and privileges. Having the fullest confidence in the fidelity and abilities of Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, from the testimonies We have had of his prudence and diligence in the discharge of so important a trust, We have again appointed him to represent Our Person, being persuaded, that the experience you have had of his steady attachment to Our service, and of his zealous adherence to the Church of Scotland, will render him acceptable to you.

We have only to add Our exhortations, that all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst yourselves may be carefully avoided, and that you will continue in the same steady course, for the advancement of every thing which may increase that unanimity and brotherly love, which will insure a happy and satisfactory conclusion of the present meeting of the General Assembly: and so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court of St James's, the 11th day of May 1786, in the 26th year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

Addressed thus: To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

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III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious letter was presented to us, met in our National Assembly, and considered as an expression of your Royal Favour, received

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received with the highest respect, and the warmest gratitude.

We esteem it an high honour to have this our National Assembly countenanced with your Royal Authority. The choice you have made of the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, to represent your Royal Person in it, is most acceptable to us. His attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government, his abilities for the discharge of this high office, and his well known regard for religion, and for the honour and interests of this Church, as they recommend him to your Majesty's regard, render him highly deserving of ours, and entitle him to the greatest honour and respect from us.

Permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to assure you, that, in all the matters which shall come before us, we shall never lose sight of those important objects which you are pleased to bring into view, the support of the Christian faith, the advancement of true religion and piety, and the suppression of irreligion and licentiousness.

Thankful to your Majesty for your paternal exhortation, to avoid all unnecessary debates and contentions among ourselves, your Majesty may be assured, that our business shall be conducted, as far as possible, with that harmony, good temper, Christian charity, brotherly love and true moderation, which, we know, are necessary to give dignity to our character, weight to our decisions, and success to our ministrations.

Sensible of the many blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and gracious administration, we shall, with indefatigable zeal, endeavour to impress sentiments of loyalty and gratitude on the minds of all your Majesty's subjects under our care.

The assurance your Majesty is pleased to give us, of your determined resolution to protect our Church in all its just rights and privileges, we receive with the greatest pleasure, and rely on with the most entire confidence.

That Almighty God, by whom Kings reign, may preserve your Person, prolong your Reign, establish your Throne in righteousness, bless your Counsels, give success and vigour to your Administration, long preserve you as the Guardian of our Religion and Liberties, render you ever happy at home, and respected abroad: That he may pour down his best blessings upon your

Royal

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Royal Consort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the branches of your Royal Family, that their characters may be distinguished for all those virtues that can adorn their exalted station, and endear them to a dutiful people: That Great Britain may remain, to latest posterity, the happy seat of liberty, useful science, and religion, under the auspicious government of Princes descended from your illustrious House; and that, after a long life of eminent and distinguished virtue upon earth, your Majesty may receive the glorious reward of it in heaven, are, and ever shall be, the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

DUNCAN SHAW, *Mod.*

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, their Moderator, all the ministers

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ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr John Couper at Glass, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkillie, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr David Denoon at Kilcurnan, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Bara, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrich, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr Francis Liddel at Orphir, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr Robert Pearson at Biggar, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, Mr George Drummond at Cranshaws, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, Mr James Richardson at Mackerston, Mr James Hay at Kirktown, Mr Lawrence Johnston at Earlston, Mr James Erskine at Roberton, Mr Abraham Nivison at Middlebee, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr William Ranken at Sanquhar, Mr James Lawrie at Tinwall, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Dr William Boyd at Ponningham, Mr James Caddel at New Luce, Dr Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wiston, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, Mr James Graham at Kilearn, Mr Hugh Mactavish at Innerchaslan, Mr George Macliesh at Saddel and Skipness, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Patrick Macdonald at Kilmore, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethindy, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr John Mushet at Stirling, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creech, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Dr John Scott at Twineholm, Professor George Hill, St Andrew's, ministers; Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant *jun.* writer, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Convener John Lindsay, Bailie William Galloway, Mr Fraser of Gorteleg, the Procurator, Mr Bannatyne-

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William Macleod advocate, Professor Hugh Macleod, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr James Torry merchant, Edinburgh, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, Bailie James Dickson, Bailie James Gentle, Convener Orlando Hart, William Ramsay of Barnton, Esq; Mr John Gloag merchant, Edinburgh, Mr James Home, writer to the Signit, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Mr Matthew Sandilands, writer to the Signet, The Solicitor-General, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Honourable General Mackay, Mr Watson of Towrin, Mr Allan Macdougal, writer to the Signet, Mr Walter Dunbar, Mr James Hogg, Mr Thomas Adair, writer to the Signet, Colonel Campbell of Moonzie, Mr Maclauchlan of Maclauchlan, Mr George Imlach, writer, Mr John Erskine, advocate, Bailie Elder, Mr James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Mr George Fergusson, advocate, Mr Home of Kilduff, Bailie Macdowall, Mr Alexander Bonnar, banker, Mr John Dickson, advocate, Mr Christopher Moubray, cashier to the Friendly Insurance-office, Mr Niel Fergusson, advocate, Dr Andrew Duncan, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Mr William Macdonald of St Martin's, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under

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der the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration

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declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That, at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered

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dered by the foresaid Committee; and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

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V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, their moderator; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr James Edward at Lentrathen, Mr James Playfair at Bendochy, ministers, Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr Thomas Ogilvie at Kirrymuir, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, Mr Thomas Constable at Liff, Mr David Spence at Kinnaird, ministers, Mr George Imlach writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, ministers, Mr Thomas Milne merchant in Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Duncan writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr Andrew Gray at Caryston, Mr Alexander Molleson at Montrose, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Mr William Leslie, writer to the Signet; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Mr Robert Foote at Fettercairn, ministers, Mr John Playfair, Professor of Mathematics, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr Robert Wyatt at Skeene, ministers, Mr James Hogg in Aberdeen, James Cunninghame, Esq; of Hyndhope, ruling elders; from the King's College, Mr Roderick Macleod, Sub-principal; from the presbytery of Kincardine-o'neal, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine-o'neal, ministers, William Macdonald,

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Macdonald, Esq; of St Martin's, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr Robert Findlay at Clatt, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes, ministers, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garrioch, Mr George Skeene-Keith at Keith-hall, Mr Alexander Duff at Monymusk, Mr John Harper at Leslie, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeaton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Taylor at New-Deer, Mr Alexander Simpson at Fraserburgh, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, ministers, Mr John Taylor clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr William Stewart at Turriff, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglen, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, Mr Alexander Milne at Boyndie, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Coupar at Glass, Mr Alexander Angus at Bortriphnie, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr John Anderson at Kingusie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkellie, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, *jun.* writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryce Campbell at Arderfier, ministers, Bailie John Lothian merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr John Mackilican at Dores, ministers, Robert Macintosh, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverness, Alexander Baillie, Esq; of Dochfour; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr David Denoon at Kileaurnan, ministers, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Alexander Monro at Edderston, ministers, Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltairn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, ministers, Bailie William

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William Galloway, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskine, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, ministers, James Fraser of Gortoleg, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr John Fraser at Lochs, ministers, the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr George Monro at South Uist, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Bara, ministers, Alexander Macleod, Esq; of Harris, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, ministers, Banantyne William-Macleod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr William Mackenzie at Assint, Mr William Keith at Kildonnan, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, ministers, the Honourable General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrich, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Sir John Sinclair of Murkle, Bart.; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr James Torry merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Malcolm Laing advocate; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, Mr Francis Liddle at Orphir, ministers, Mr John Taylor, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchel at Tingwal, Mr James Sands at Lerwick, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott at South Leith, Mr Thomas White at Libberton, Sir Harry Moncrief-Wellwood, West Church, Mr Robert Walker, Canongate, Dr James Macknight, Edinburgh, Mr John Logan, South Leith, ministers, William Ramsay of Barnton, Esq; Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable James Hunter-Blair, Lord Provost, Mr Orlando Hart, Deacon-convener of the Trades; from the University of Edinburgh, Mr William Greenfield, Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres; from the presbytery of Linlithgow,

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Linlithgow, Mr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr John Willison at West-Calder, Mr John Aitchison at Falkirk, ministers, Honourable Captain Robert Sandilands, Mr John Gloag, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr John Bradfoot at Dunsire, Mr John Thomson at Walston, Mr Robert Pearson at Biggar, ministers; Mr James Home writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, ministers, Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr John Main at Newton, Mr Thomas Macourtie at Pennycuick, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Patrick Bannerman at Salton, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr Niel Roy at Aberladie, ministers, Right Honourable Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, David Smith, Esq; Provost of Haddington; from the burgh of North-Berwick, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr David Spence at Cockburnspath, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, ministers, James Wilkie, Esq; of Gilkerstone, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr George Drummond at Cranshaws, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr John Jolly at Coldinghame, Mr George Tod at Eymouth, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelso, Mr James Richardson at Mackerston, ministers, the Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, Mr James Hay at Kirktoun, ministers, the Solicitor-general, ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Honourable Henry Erskine advocate; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Mr Laurence Johnstone at Earlston, ministers, the Right Honourable Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr James Erskine at Roberton, Mr Frederick Maclaggan at Melrose, ministers, Mark Pringle of Fairnalee, Esq; ruling elder; from

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the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr John Craig at Ruthwell, Mr Abraham Nivlson at Middlebee, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletoun, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, ministers, Gideon Rutherford, Esq; of Greenpark, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, Mr Thomas Henderson at Dryfdale, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, ministers, Mr John Coupland at Minnygape, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr John Robertson at Kirkconnel, Mr William Ranken at Sanquhar, ministers, Mr Robert Edgar, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr William Macmorine at Carlaverock, Mr James Laurie at Tinwall, ministers, Mr Charles Barry at Nethertoun, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Mr John Aitken, town-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Dr John Scot at Twyneholm, Mr John Johnstone at Crossmichael, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, ministers, Mr John Macmorin in Crofts, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr Ebenezer Stott at Minniegaff, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, ministers, Bailie John Hathorn, Wigton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whitehorn, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr James Mochrie at Colmonell, Mr James Cadall at New Luce, ministers, Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr William Auld at Machline, Mr John Macdairmed-Fergushill at Straton, Mr James Connel at Sorn, Dr Patrick Wodrow at Tarbolton, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr Thomas Pollock at Kilwinning, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, ministers, Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewelton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr Colin Gillies at Paisley, Mr John Monteith at Neilston, ministers, Mr John Haddoway merchant, Leith, Bailie John Smith in

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in Paisley, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James Fergusson at Pettynain, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wyston, ministers, Mr George Scot, schoolmaster at Carnwath, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr William Porteous at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dobie at Eglesham, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, ministers, Mr Andrew Paton merchant, Glasgow, Bailie John Macaslan, seedsman there, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Dr Robert Finlay; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, Mr James Graham at Killearn, Mr John Stewart at Luss, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; younger of Luss; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr Hugh Mactavish at Innerchaolan, ministers, Jo. Lamont, Esq; of Lamont, ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, Mr John Home of Kilduff; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Maccleish at Kilchonan, Mr Dugald Macdugald at Gigha, Mr George Maccleish at Saddle, ministers, Mr Archibald Macdowal merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Dugald Campbell at Glassary, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Donald Maclauchlan of Maclauchlan, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Professor James Williamson, Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Patrick Macdonald at Kilmore, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvan, ministers, Allan Macdougall of Galanish, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethindy, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr James Peter Bannerman at Cargill, ministers, Mr Thomas Elder merchant, Edinburgh, Mr David Stewart banker, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr David Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr David Dow at Dron, ministers, Mr Alexander Bonnar banker, Edinburgh, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery

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bytery of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Mushet at Stirling, ministers, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr John Baird at Duning, Mr Thomas Barty at Maonzie, ministers, Mr Christopher Moubray, Insurance-office, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr William Osburn at Tillycoultry, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, ministers, Professor Richardson, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Thomson at Marckinch, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, Mr James Lawrie at Balingray, ministers, Ja. Townsend Oswald Esq; of Dunniker, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus; from the burgh of Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Hamilton, present Provost of Kinghorn; from the presbytery of Cupar, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creech, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert Arnot at Ceres, Mr Thomas Stewart at Newburgh, ministers, Robert Herriot, Esq; of Ramornie, Mr Henry Hardie at Newburgh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvile of Cairny; from the presbytery of St Andrew's, Principal James Gillespie, St Andrew's, Dr Robert Dalgliesh at Ferry Parton-Craigs, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr James Nairn at Pittenweem, ministers, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmellie, Niel Fergusson, Esq; of Pitcullo, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan physician, Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrew's, Professor George Hill; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned,

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to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for sup-

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preſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting,

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meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 14th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VI.

Interim Act and Overture concerning Ordained Assistants.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

VII.

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VII.

Recommendation respecting Ordination to the Office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

THE Committee appointed to consider the Overture respecting Ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follows: Having carefully considered the said Overture, find that matter attended with so many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propose to the General Assembly any precise rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into standing laws; and can only move, That the Assembly should, in the mean time, recommend it to Presbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to such persons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reasonable prospect of such provision as may enable them to support the ministerial character; and that no Presbytery grant ordination to any person who has a near prospect of removing from the bounds of that Presbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it shall by them be found necessary or proper. Which being considered by the General Assembly, they approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this Recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

VIII.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That

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That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

IX.

The Assembly agreed to transmit the following Overture to Presbyteries.

Edinburgh, May 27. 1786.

THAT such an indulgence as shall seem meet to the Assembly, may be granted to the Students having the Gaelic language in the Northern and Western Isles.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 17th day of May. in the year 1787.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDGMENT

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A B R I D G M E N T

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1786, which are not printed at full length.

May 18. 1786. *Sess. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Moderator of Assembly 1784, in place of the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, Moderator of the last General Assembly, who was confined by indisposition, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and after prayer by the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister at Dalkeith, who was a member of Assembly, and the immediate preceding Moderator to Dr Drysdale, who was not a member of this Assembly, and was to officiate as clerk thereto, the Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Grieve proposed Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen. No other person being added to the nomination, the roll was called, and votes marked; and the Assembly unanimously made choice of the said Dr Duncan Shaw to be their Moderator, who, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

A letter was presented, addressed to the Moderator, from Sir Harry Moncrieff, late Moderator, apologising for his non-attendance, which was unanimously sustained.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his

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Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.

The Procurator brought up the report of the Committee of last Assembly, appointed to prepare a new Form of Process. The same ordered to lie on the table.

Adjournment.

May 19. 1786. *Sess.* 2*d.*

Sederunt

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observations thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 20. 1786. *Sess.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Linlithgow, "That the minister chosen at an after "election is attested in the form prescribed for the "elder, as well as the minister," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Arbroath, "That the word *all* is omitted before the "words *the ministers*;" repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Selkirk, "That it has the word *both* in place of the "word *all* before *the ministers*," repelled, and the commission sustained.

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The commission from the burgh of Kinghorn rejected, because the election was made upon the 14th of April, which is not forty days previous to the sitting of the Assembly. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Dumbarton rejected, because the minute of election is extracted by a person who has not adjected to his subscription the word *clerk*. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commissions from the burghs of Inverary and Dumfries, "That they both want the words *attested by* in the attestation by the Kirk-session," repelled, and both these commissions sustained.

The commission from the burgh of Irvine rejected, because in the attestation by the Kirk-session, after the words *attested by*, it has the following additional words, *us in terms of the evidence laid before us*. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of North Berwick rejected, because it wants the name of the burgh after the words *town-council of*; and also, because the attestor has not adjected the word *clerk* to his subscription. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commission from the burgh of Montrose, "That it has the words *one* and *two* o'clock, in place of the words *one* and *eight* o'clock," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Lewis, "That it was blank as to the day of the sitting of the Assembly," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The consideration of the objection to the commission from the burgh of Whithorn, delayed till Monday.

The objection to the commission from the burgh of Annan, "That it is blank as to the day of the sitting of the Assembly," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The commission from the burgh of Jedburgh rejected, because the resolution to elect is on the 29th of March, and the election on the 5th of April. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced and read.

Resolved

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Resolved to consider on Monday the petition and memorial of the Northumberland class of Protestant Dissenting Ministers; and after that, the dissent anent taking Mr Bennet on trials. On Tuesday, the Sketch of the New Form of Process. And on Wednesday, the complaint of Jean Purves against Mr Jolly, and he summoned *apud acta* to sist himself personally.

Resolved, That after those already fixed in the order of private causes, the cause of the parish of Moy and Dalarossie should be first heard, and after that the cause of the parish of Dalton.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for revising commissions, and the Committee for bills, appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1786. *Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures, produced and read.

The roll of causes transmitted from the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

At Mr Macintosh's request, agreed to take up the cause of Dalton before the cause of Moy.

A Committee appointed to consider the reference from the presbytery of Dunkeld, and to report concerning the riot therein mentioned.

Synod-

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Synod-books called for. The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns produced, and a Committee appointed to revise the same. None of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, That the reasons for their not being brought up be enquired into.

Proceeded to consider the objection to the commission from the burgh of Whithorn, *viz.* "That the attestation of the Kirk-session had the word *Minister* in place of *Moderator* after the name of the attestor." The objection repelled, and the commission sustained.

His Majesty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, ordered to be recorded, and delivered to the Procurator.

A petition and memorial for the Northumberland Class of Protestant Dissenting Ministers, given in, and read. The Assembly recommended to all Presbyteries carefully to avoid doing any thing that should tend to disturb the peace and union of the Dissenting Classes of Protestants in Northumberland, and other parts; and appointed their Moderator to write a letter to the Moderator of the Northumberland Class of Protestant Dissenters, expressing their resolution to preserve the peace and union of the Class, as far as lies in their power.

A dissent and complaint at the instance of Dr Andrew Hunter, and Dr Henry Grieve and others, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, allowing the Presbytery of Linlithgow to proceed in the trials of Mr William Bennet, heard. The Assembly, without a vote, disapproved of the conduct of the Synod, in allowing the Presbytery of Linlithgow to take Mr Bennet on trials, as being contrary to a law of the Church.

Remitted to the particular consideration of the Committee for overtures, to provide an effectual method for preventing such violation of the law in time to come, and appointed them to meet to-morrow morning for that purpose.

The Committee for revising commissions, and the Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1786. *Sess.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

 Resolved

The Committees for overtures and bills, and new applications, and the Committee on Mr Maclaggan's petition, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1786. *Sess.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

Bailie Galloway adhered to the dissent of yesterday from the decision in the cause against Mr Jolly.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, produced, and read.

The Committee on Mr Maclaggan's petition authorised again to meet, with the former powers.

Upon a motion, all the Presbyteries of the Church are enjoined to take under their consideration the Sketch of the New Form of Process, on or before the first of December next, and to transmit their reports to the Agent for the Church, on or before the first of May next, in order that the Procurator (who has offered to take the trouble) may have it in his power to class the different reports before the sitting of the next General Assembly.

Two appeals at the instance of Dr William Bryden, Minister of Dalton, from two several sentences of the Synod of Dumfries, in the cause at the instance of Robert Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, against him; and a reference by the Synod of Dumfries, and another by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, heard. Agreed to consider, 1*st*, the Appeal at the instance of Dr Bryden, and the Presbytery of Lochmaben, from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 18th October last, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of date the 2d August last, which finds the condescendence, with respect to the first article of the libel anent Ann Dalzell, irrelevant to be admitted to proof. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, to affirm the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries. Another motion was made and seconded, to reverse the said sentence. The question was then put, *Affirm* or *Reverse*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Affirm*. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries; then proceeded to consider the appeal from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, at the instance of Dr Bryden, of date the 19th of October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of date the 2d of August last, finding

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finding a condescendence with respect to Marion Waugh, relevant to be admitted to proof. The Assembly dismissed the appeal, and affirmed the sentences of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, and Synod of Dumfries. Thereafter proceeded to consider the reference by the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 19th October last, of an appeal by the prosecutors of Dr Bryden, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, pronounced on the 4th day of October last, finding, that, by the sentence of last General Assembly, limiting the time of examining witnesses before the Presbytery, to the first day of October last, and which being past, they were precluded from examining the witnesses mentioned in the execution of diligence produced. The Assembly reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben. Delayed consideration of the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of 2d May instant, till to-morrow.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

The Committee on new applications, and the Committee on the reference from the Presbytery of Dunkeld, also appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1786. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the whole overtures on the table to-morrow.

Report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to hear the cause of Orwell on Monday.

A petition for Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, read. The Assembly unanimously granted the desire thereof, and renewed the grant to Mr Dickson of the sole right of printing and publishing the Translations and Paraphrases of Holy Scripture, for the space of nine years from this period.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

A petition for the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, praying to renew the collection ordered by last Assembly, upon such parishes as had not had an opportunity of making such collection, read. The

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Assembly renewed the collection upon such parishes as have not had an opportunity of making the same, and appointed the money collected, to be transmitted to Mr Archibald Hope, Secretary to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Treasurer to the Royal Infirmary.

Resumed consideration of the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of the 2d of May instant, in the process at the instance of Mr Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, against Dr William Bryden, Minister of Dalton; and upon a motion, the Assembly found the proof in this cause not concluded. Thereafter proceeded to consider of the requisition of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, for advice, directions and instructions in the said cause; and after reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly remit, with a recommendation to the Presbytery to proceed with all convenient speed in this cause, according to the rules of the Church." Another motion was made and seconded, "That they judge, it being understood that, if it carries *judge*, the Assembly proceed to hear parties upon the relevancy of the interrogatories." A state of the vote was then put, *Remit* or *Judge*, and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, *Remit*. The Assembly therefore remitted to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, with a recommendation to proceed in this cause with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Donald Macqueen of Corrybirgh, and others, Heritors, Elders, and heads of families, in the parish of Moy and Dalarossie, libellers of Mr James Macintosh, Minister of these united parishes, petition for the said Mr Macintosh, and a reference by the Synod of Moray, heard; and after reasoning, a motion was made, That the General Assembly, in respect the judgment of the Presbytery, deposing Mr Macintosh, was pronounced during the dependence of an appeal duly lodged, reverse the said judgment, and remit to the Presbytery to resume the consideration of the cause; and, on the application of the parties, to proceed according to the laws of the Church. Another motion was made, That the Assembly proceed to judge of the two appeals in this cause, in the order in which they were taken. A state of the vote was then put, *First* or *Second* motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Second*. Therefore the Assembly proceeded to judge of

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of the two appeals from the sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, in the order in which they were taken. Then took under consideration the first appeal from the sentence, of date March 1. 1786, finding Mr Macintosh's proof closed, in respect he was appointed by the sentence of the Synod of Moray, in April 1785, to have it closed previous to that day; and after reasoning, the Assembly, without a vote, waved judging of both appeals, and remitted to the Presbytery of Inverness to examine Andrew Noble and Janet Davidson, and no other witness, these two being the only witnesses whom Mr Macintosh had desired the Presbytery to examine; or to grant commission for examining them, to the Presbytery within the bounds of which they reside: And ordained Mr Macintosh to apply to the Presbytery for that purpose, before the first of August next, and to finish his proof against the first of March 1787. And if Mr Macintosh does not finish his proof against said day, ordained the Presbytery of Inverness to hold his proof as closed, and to judge on the whole proof. Against which judgment, Mr Thomson of Carnock entered his dissent.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1786. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Act, approving of the account of Mr William Robertson Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 6 : 4 : 3 $\frac{6}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act, approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum disbursed by him, and appointing that he credit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 23 : 12 : 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The account of the expence of the New Form of Process, due to William Murray clerk, appointed by the Committee thereon, ordered to be paid.

The account of stationary-ware, due by the Clerks to Mr Elphinston Balfour, ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

Report

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Report of the Committee appointed to consider new applications for shares of the public money, &c. read, and approved of.

The process anent the church-yard dikes at Lauder, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to carry it on at the public expence.

The process of augmentation at the instance of Mr George Macleish, Minister of Skipness and Saddel, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry it on at the public expence. And further, the Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Macleish the sum of L. 15 Sterling, in respect the object of the manse, glebe, and grass, mentioned in his petition, are already obtained without any aid from the Church.

The petition of Mr William Milligan, Minister of Kirkden, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr William Sutherland, Minister at Wick, the sum of L. 30 Sterling, against the term of Whitsunday next.

The petition of Mr Richard Scott, Minister at Ewes, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Frederick Maclaggan, Minister of Melrose, the sum of L. 15 Sterling.

The process of augmentation at the instance of Mr Andrew Dishington, Minister of Yell in Zetland, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry it on at the public expence.

The visitors of the Commission-record reported, that they had no remarks to make. The Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record called for; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

All the other Synod-books ordered to be brought up to next Assembly.

Report

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Report of the Committee appointed by last General Assembly, on the scheme for erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands, was given in, and read.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, being given in, the same was ordered to lie on the table till next diet; and, upon a motion, Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood was congratulate from the Chair upon his happy recovery from his late indisposition, and the thanks of the House given to him, for his great care and attention to the said fund.

The overture for a declaratory act, that in case of dissents and protests, for leave to complain of Presbyteries sentences respecting the licensing of Probationers, on the ground of their acting contrary to the Act of Assembly 1782, that the effect of such dissent and protest shall be to sist the actual licensing of such Probationer till the complaint is dismissed, was withdrawn.

The following overture, *viz.* "That such an indulgence "as shall seem meet to the Assembly, may be granted "to the Students having the Gaelic language, in the "Northern and Western Isles," transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide* Printed Acts.

All the overtures anent licensing Probationers, remitted to a Committee, to consider the same, and to report to the next General Assembly.

The overture from the Synod of Fife, and the overture from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, anent appeals, remitted to a Committee to consider the same, and to report to next General Assembly.

The overture from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, anent extracts from the records of Assembly, dismissed.

The overtures from the Synod of Fife, and from the Synod of Moray, anent contested patronages, dismissed.

The overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent qualifications of Elders, remitted to the Committee on the overtures anent appeals.

The overture by Mr. Robert Deans, remitted to the Committee on the overtures, anent licensing Probationers.

Report of the Sub-committee appointed to class returns to overtures, transmitted, called for, produced, and read.

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The two following overtures retransmitted by last Assembly, *viz.* 1st, Recommendation respecting ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge; 2d, Overture respecting the ordination of Elders, together with the interim act, appointed to be again transmitted. *Vide* Printed Acts.

An appeal at the instance of Mr John Scott, Minister of Avandale, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton, of date the 29th April last, finding a libel at his instance, against Mr William Gilmour, preacher of the gospel, and catechist in said parish, informal, irrelevant, and unnecessary, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made, "That the General Assembly reverse the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton appealed from, and find the libel relevant; and remit the same to the Presbytery of Hamilton to be admitted to proof, according to the rules of the Church." Another motion was made, "To affirm the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton." The state of the vote was then put, *Affirm* or *Reverse*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Reverse*. The Assembly, therefore, reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton appealed from, and found the libel relevant, and remitted the same to the Presbytery of Hamilton, to be admitted to proof, according to the rules of the Church.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1786. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference by the Presbytery of Dunkeld, relative to the riot by Mr Rattray of Dalrulzian, in the kirk of Kirkmichael; the Assembly remitted to the Procurator to enquire into the facts set forth in the said reference, and empowered him, if he should see cause, to bring a process against the party concerned therein, before the competent court, and to carry on the same at the public expence.

The report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a provision to Ministers Widows, *&c.* containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The

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The memorial for the ſubſcribers reſident in the city of Quebec, craving aid by collection, or otherwiſe, ordered to lie on the table.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to conſider the petition of Mr Frederick Maclaggan, the Aſſembly allowed them again to ſit, and to take ſuch ſteps for the accommodation of Mr Maclaggan and his pariſhioners, as they ſhould think prudent or expedient, and to report to next General Aſſembly.

Two appeals at the inſtance of James Simpſon of Mawcarſe, and others, Heritors and heads of families of the pariſh of Orwell, from two ſentences of the Synod of Fife, of date 11th of October laſt, heard. And after reaſoning, the Aſſembly unanimouſly diſmiſſed the appeals, and affirmed the ſentences of the Synod of Fife appealed from; and ſuſtained the call in favour of Mr Patrick Spence, to be aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor to his father in the pariſh of Orwell; and appointed the Preſbytery of Dunfermline to proceed to his ſettlement with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

All cauſes before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, and cauſes remitted by former Aſſemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commiſſion, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Proteſtations admitted.

A Committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this, and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this ſederunt were read; the minutes of former ſederunts having been read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly, and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next General Aſſembly of this Church, to meet on May 17. 1787.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, ſinging a pſalm, and pronouncing the bleſſing.

FINIS.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 17th Day of *May* 1787.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland*.

M,DCC,LXXXVII.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 17th Day of *May* 1787, and concluded the 28th Day of the said Month and Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 17. 1787.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's

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Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly, of the same tenor with the Commission granted to his Lordship last year; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly.

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ, Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ pervenerint. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum septimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dict. ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dict. conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei,* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, fidelissimum et dilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum, in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene atque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, et ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dict. ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, stricte præcipimus et mandamus, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium ad effectum et modum supra memorat. revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius audientes se præbeant: Atque hanc nostrum commissionem a dicto decimo septimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante hac subsequente sessionis dict. generalis conventus*

continuare,

continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud St James's, trigesimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-septimo, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo-septimo.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascripta.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. Your constant endeavours in the support of Religion and Virtue, your equitable proceedings in all matters which come before you, and your uniform zeal for the dignity of Our Person and Government, have justly entitled you to those marks of approbation, which We have hitherto with so much satisfaction given to you. Such a laudable conduct will always meet with Our Approbation, and will insure Our Royal Protection, in the support and maintenance of the Church of Scotland, in all its just rights and privileges, as established by law. We repeat Our exhortations to you, to suppress all unnecessary discussions, and to discountenance all private and personal animosities; to attend strictly to the true purposes for which you are assembled; to continue your endeavours to check and discountenance every species of vice, licentiousness, and discord, and for the promotion and encouragement of every Christian virtue. Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Lewen, has so strongly shewn his attachment to the interests of

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his country, as well as his loyalty and fidelity to Our Person and Government, and you have so often experienced his endeavours to execute with uprightness, the high and important trust of Our Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that We are confident Our re-appointment of him to that great office will be acceptable to you. And we trust that you will attend to these Our recommendations, in preserving unanimity and brotherly love among you in your councils, and secure to yourselves a happy conclusion of the present Assembly; and so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1787, in the 27th year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

Addressed thus: To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

WE receive with the most dutiful respect, the honour done us by your Majesty's most gracious letter.

It gives us great satisfaction, that our humble endeavours in the support of Religion and Virtue, the equitable proceedings of our Assemblies, and our uniform zeal for the dignity of your Sacred Person and Government have recommended us to those marks of approbation,

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tion, with which your Majesty hath been hitherto pleased to honour us.

By the same laudable conduct, we trust, we shall obtain the same Royal approbation, and insure to the Church of Scotland, your Majesty's protection, in the support and maintenance of all her just rights and privileges as established by law.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that, avoiding all unnecessary discussions, and all private and personal animosities, we shall strictly keep in view the great purposes of our present meeting; and that, depending upon the blessing of God, we shall always consider it as our honour to exert our constant endeavours, to check and discountenance every species of vice, licentiousness and discord, and to promote and encourage every Christian virtue among the people committed to our care.

The loyalty and fidelity of the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, his uprightness in the discharge of his high and important trust, as well as his regard to religion, and the interests of his Country and of this Church, are so well known to us, as to render your Majesty's choice of him, to represent your Sacred Person in this Assembly, a fresh mark of your Royal Favour; and we trust we shall shew to him all that respect which is due to the representative of our Sovereign, and secure to ourselves a happy conclusion of this Assembly, by preserving in our councils that brotherly love, and, as far as possible, that unanimity which your Majesty recommends.

Your Majesty's Donation of one thousand pounds, we accept with all gratitude, as a proof of the continuance of your Majesty's paternal concern for the spiritual as well as temporal interests of your people, even in the most remote and uncultivated parts of your kingdoms; and it shall be our study to apply it in such a manner, as may most effectually promote the pious and benevolent purposes of the Royal Donor.

That God may abundantly bless your Majesty: That he may continue to guard from every danger, a life so dear to your Majesty's subjects, and so precious to the religion and liberties of this country: That he may direct your councils, prosper your administration, and establish your throne in righteousness: That he may pour down his best blessing upon your Royal Consort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family, endow them plenteously

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plenteoufly with the Gifts of his Spirit, and fit them for the duties of their exalted ftation: That he may maintain the fucceffion to the Crown of thefe kingdoms, in your Illuftrious Family to the lateft ages; and that after a long and happy reign, over a great and free people, you may, through the merits of our Lord Jefus Chrift, be crowned with eternal glory in Heaven, is the moft fervent prayer of,

May it pleafe your Majefty,
Your Majefty's moft faithful,
Moft obedient,
And moft loyal fubjects,
The Miniffers and Elders met in this National Affembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our prefence,
And at our appointment, by

ROBERT LISTON, *Mod.*

IV.

Commiffion to fome Miniffers and Ruling Elders for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iflands of Scotland, and for managing his Majefty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Affembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Mr Robert Lifton, Miniffer of the Gofpel at Aberdour, their Moderator, all the miniffers who are members of the Prefbytery of Edinburgh, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmanie, Profeffor George Hill, Principal M'Cormick, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr John Webfter at Inverarity, Dr James Blinfhall at Dundee, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothock,

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Aberbrothock, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordown, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr John Rose at Udney, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Mr Andrew Skeene at Banff, Mr John Cooper at Glass, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkilly, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Colin Mackenzie at Foderty, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr John Macqueen at Applecross, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr Patrick Nicholson at Thurso, Mr John Scollay at St Andrew's, Mr Francis Liddle at Orphir, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Dr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Daniel Macqueen at Prestonkirk, Mr William Simpson at Greenlaw, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Thomas Elliot at Cavers, Mr John Mertown at Merton, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiels, Mr John Russel at Canonby, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr John Coulter at Stranrawer, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Arthur Ouchterson at Kilbride, Dr John Snodgrass at Paisley, Mr Archibald Bruce at Shotts, Mr Joseph Crichton at Carstairs, Dr William Taylor at Glasgow, Mr James Cooper at Baldernock, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Thomas Fleeming at Kenmore, Mr Hary Inglis at Fortiviot, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr John Wright at Trinitygask, Mr James Robertson at Callender, Ministers; Sir Charles Preston, Mr James Fergus at Kirkaldy, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Provost of Kinghorn, Colonel Monypenny, Dr Andrew Duncan, Mr George Imlach writer, Mr Thomas Miln merchant, Mr Thomas Duncan writer, Mr Alexander Burnet advocate, Mr John Mosman, Professor Playfair, Mr Cunningham of Hyndhope, William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, John Gordon of Craig, Esq; George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; Mr John Taylor writer, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr John Russel *junior*, writer, Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon writer,

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Walter Dunbar, Esq; Mr Ludovick Grant *junior*, writer, Mr Robert Mackintosh advocate, Convener Lindsay, Lord Ankerville, Bailie Galloway, Lord Macdonald, the Procurator, William Bannatyne-Macleod, Esq; Professor Hugh Macleod, Bailie Daniel Miller, John Campbell-Sutherland, Esq; Bailie James Torry, Mr Malcolm Laing advocate, Mr George Home baker, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Lord Henderland, Mr Archibald Macdowal, Mr Thomas Trotter, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Robert Dewar, Professor Finlayson, Honourable Captain Sandilands, Lord Chief Baron, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Solicitor General, Earl of Hyndford, Mr Matthew Sandilands, Mr Stewart younger of Allanbank, Earl of Lauderdale, Mr William Elliot advocate, Mr Richard Tod, Mr James Saunders writer, Mr Francis Armstrong, John Bushby, Esq; Jo. Hamilton of Bargenny, Esq; Will. Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Mr George Fergusson advocate, Honourable Patrick Boyle, Mr John Haddoway at Leith, Mr John Hamilton of Westburn, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate, Lord Advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, Bart. John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Mr James Home writer, Dr James Williamson, Colonel Campbell of Moonzie, Allan Macdougal, Esq; Thomas Elder, Esq; David Stewart, Esq; Mr Alexander Bonar banker, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, Mr John Erskine advocate, and the Honourable Henry Erskine, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation,

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tion, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which

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which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the com-

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mission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

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V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Mr Robert Liston, minister of the gospel at Aberdour, their Moderator; and from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, ministers, and Sir Charles Preston of Valeyfield, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldie, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr John Ushar at Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald, Esq; of Dunnekeir, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldie, Mr James Fergus, one of the present Bailies of Kirkcaldie; from the burgh of Kinghorn, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Provost of Kinghorn; from the burgh of Burntisland, Mr John Thomson, one of the Bailies of Burntisland; from the burgh of Dysart, Mr John Melvill, *senior*, manufacturer in Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmanie, Mr Robert Macculloch at Dersie, Mr Andrew Ireland at Menzie, Mr William Gourly at Flesk, ministers, and Mr David Pitcairn at Maunt, and Mr Robert Chrystie at Callingh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvell of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrew's, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Professor George Hill, St Andrew's, Mr James Macdonald at Kemback, Mr Henry David Hill at Denino, ministers, and Lieutenant-colonel Alexander Monnypenny, Mr Thomas Ballardie in Anstruther, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician, Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrew's, Dr Joseph Maccormick, Principal of the University of St Andrew's; from the burgh of Crail, the Reverend Mr Alexander Meldrum of Kincaple; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr James

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James Johnston at Blairgowrie, ministers; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr Griffith Ferguson at Dunnichen, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turrin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr James Blinshall at Dundee, Mr John Gellatlay at Tealin, Mr Thomas Constable at Liff, ministers, Mr George Imlach, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Mackay at Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Girvin at Lunan, ministers, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr John Waugh at Memmuir, Mr James Mitchell at Montrose, ministers, and Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, John Mossman, Esq; merchant Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Fordown, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordown, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr John Hutchison at Fettereſſo, ministers, and Professor John Playfair, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr William Stronach at New Machar, Mr James Fraser at Drumoak, ministers, William Cruden, Esq; late Provost of Aberdeen, James Cuningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, ruling elders; from the Marishall College, Dr Robert Hamilton, Professor of Natural Philosophy; from the presbytery of Kincardine-o'neal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr George Knowles at Birse, Mr Robert Farquharson at Logycoldstone, ministers, William Macdonald, Esq; of Rineaton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr George Donaldson at Kenethmont, ministers, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr John Rose at Udny, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr George Skeen Keith at Keith-hall, Mr Patrick Davidson at Raynie, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeaton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Mr George More at Peterhead, Mr James Greig at Pitsligo, ministers, Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skeen at Banff, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr John Russel,

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Russel, *junior*, writer to the Signet; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Coopar at Glass, Mr Alexander Angus at Bortriphnie, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr John Anderson at Kinguisick, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, physician, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edenkilly, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Petty, ministers, Robert Macintosh, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Alexander Wood of Rosemarkie, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, ministers, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Alexander Nimmo at Edderton, ministers, Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Colin Mackenzie at Fodertie, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Bailie William Galloway, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Sleat, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, Lord Macdonald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Munro at Uig, ministers, William Robertson, Esq; Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr John Macqueen at Applecross, Mr Colin Maciver at Glenelg, ministers, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr Æneas Macleod at Rogart, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr David Mackay at Reay, Mr Patrick Nicholson at Thurso, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, John Campbell Sutherland of Forss, Esq; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrew's, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Bailie James Torry, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate; from the presbytery of Cairston, Mr Francis Liddle at Orphir, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, Mr George Hume, baker, Edinburgh, ruling

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ling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Patrick Barclay at Standsting, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Lundie, Edinburgh, Mr John Chisley at Corstorphin, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr John Walker at Collington, Dr John Macfarlane, Canongate, Mr Thomas Randal, Edinburgh, ministers, Lord Henderland, Mr Archibald Macdowall, Mr Thomas Trotter, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Grieve, Lord Provost, Convener Robert Dewar; from the University of Edinburgh, the Reverend Mr James Finlayson, Professor of Logic; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr Patrick Bailie at Borrowstounness, Mr Robert Wishart at Livingston, Mr William Gibb at Uphall, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cunningham, the Honourable Captain Sandilands, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteus at Kilbucko, Mr William Strachan at Coulter, ministers, Mr John Brown, schoolmaster at Libberton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Dr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, Mr Robert Scott at Inverlethen, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr John Paton at Lasswade, Mr James Brown at Newbattle, ministers, Mr Solicitor-general, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr Francis Cowan at Gladsmuir, Mr Patrick Carfrae at Morham, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr Thomas Howden, tenant in Ugston; from the burgh of Northberwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of Northberwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr Daniel Macqueen at Prestonkirk, Mr John Cochran at Oldhamstocks, ministers, James Wilkie, Esq; of Kilkerston, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Francis Kinloch, Esq; younger of Gilmerton; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr William Simpson at Greenlaw, Mr John Tod at Fogo, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Dr David Young at Foulden, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger

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of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Andrew Ogilvie at Linton, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Thomas Elliot at Cavers, Mr James Rutherford at Hownam, Dr William Burn at Minto, ministers, Robert Dundas, Esq; his Majesty's Solicitor-general, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lawder, Mr John Martin at Merton, Mr William Shiell at Westruther, ministers, the Right Honourable Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiels, Mr Thomas Robertson at Selkirk, ministers, William Elliot younger of Borthwick-brae, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod, merchant, Leith; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Russel at Canonbie, Mr John Lawrie at Eskdalemuir, ministers, Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr David Dickson at St Mungo, Dr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, ministers, Mr Francis Armstrong, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr William Kydon at Penpont, Mr John Mackill at Durisdeer, ministers, Mr Robert Gibson in Caricknow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutten, Mr William Wright at Newably, Mr William Burnside at Dumfries, ministers, Mr Robert Jackson, printer, Dumfries, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Mutter at Kircudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Mr George Maxwell at Buitle, ministers, Mr John Macmin in Crofts, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr Andrew Donnan at Wigton, ministers, Mr George Donnan, preacher of the gospel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Robert Callendar at Kirkmaiden, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Maitland of Freugh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr John Shephard at Muirkirk, Mr Stephen Young at Bar, Mr David Grant at Ochiltree, Mr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; from the

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the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Arthur Auchterson at Kilbride, Mr James Mackinlay at Kilmarnoch, Dr James Woodrow at Stevenson, ministers, the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Mr Alexander Macmillan, one of the present Bailies of Irvine; from the presbytery of Paisley, Dr John Snodgrass at Paisley, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr Allan Macaulay at Old Parish of Greenock, Mr John Maccaig at Eastwood, ministers, Mr John Haddoway, merchant, Leith, Mr William Pattison, merchant, Paisley, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Archibald Bruce at Shotts, Mr Hugh Mitchell at Glassford, Mr John Lockhart at Cambusnethen, ministers, John Hamilton of Westburn, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr Joseph Crichton at Carstairs, Mr James Scott at Carluke, ministers, Mr George Scott, schoolmaster at Carnwath, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr William Taylor, Glasgow, Mr William Stewart at Cumbernauld, Mr James French at Carmunnock, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, ministers, Mr John Ferguson, merchant, Glasgow, Mr John Tenant, brewer there, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr James Couper at Badernock, Mr Alexander Macaulay at Strathblane, Mr Gavin Gibb at Fintry, ministers, Ilay Campbell, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Baronet; from the presbytery of Denoon, Mr John Macinnon at Kilmodan, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr Dougal Macdougall at Gigha, Mr Alexander Stewart at Jura and Colonsay, ministers, Mr James Hume, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbeltown, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson, professor of mathematics in the University of Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Donald Macnicol at Lismore, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Dugald Campbell at Ross, ministers, Allan Macdougall of Galanach, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr Charles Machardie at Kirkmichael, Mr Alexander Stewart at Moulin, Mr George Baird

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Baird at Dunkeld, ministers, Thomas Elder, Esq; wine-merchant, Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Harry Inglis at Fortiviot, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr John Inglis at Tippermuir, Mr James Scott at Perth, ministers, Mr Alexander Bonar, banker, Edinburgh, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr George Harvey at Larbert, ministers, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Wright at Trinity-Gask, Mr Colin Baxter at Monivaird, Mr Andrew Gibson at Muckart, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Robertson at Callendar, Mr John Campbell at Kippan, ministers, Mr Patrick Caldwell at Noriston, ruling elder. And the General Assembly added thereto, Dr Hugh Blair, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, and also added Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr John Craig at Ruthwell, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, from the presbytery of Annan, whose commission through some accident had not been produced, to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs

or

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or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the

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prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VI.

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VI.

Interim Act and Overture concerning ordained Assistants, retransmitted and re-enacted.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

VII.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture,

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ture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

VIII.

Overture anent Certificates of the Ordination of Elders to the General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THAT before any Presbytery attest the commission of a person to represent them, or any burgh within their bounds, for the first time, as an Elder in the National Assembly of this Church, there be laid before them a declaration, or attestation, by some Minister of this Church, of his having been ordained an Elder.

IX.

Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It

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I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a Certificate from the minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied; from which it may be clearly ascertained, that, in some University, or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some sessions of College preceding that in which the Certificates are produced.

II. To afford the better security for the regular and exemplary conduct of Students in Divinity, it is hereby enacted, That upon the conclusion of that session in which they were first inrolled by the Professor, they shall, some time within six kalendar months thereafter, intimate to the Presbyteries, in whose bounds they have their respective places of residence, that they have commenced Students in Divinity; and that, if any Student has occasion to remove from the bounds of one Presbytery to those of another, he shall, within six kalendar months after said removal, intimate the same to the Presbytery in whose bounds he is to have his new residence, and produce to them a Certificate of his character from that Presbytery with whom he was last connected; or at least a certificate of his moral character from the minister of the parish in which he resided. And it is farther enacted, that the several Presbyteries of this Church, shall keep exact lists of such Students of Divinity, as reside within their bounds, and watch over the conduct of the said Students.

III. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six years: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in four sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in five sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that, in each of these cases, Stu-

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dents shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several sessions of their respective courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a Popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises, as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. It is likewise hereby enacted, that, in each of these respective cases, the course shall be computed from the commencement of that session in which the Student was originally inrolled; and that if a Student be proposed to any Presbytery for trials, during the currency of his fourth, fifth, or sixth session, according to the special nature of his case, that session shall be sustained as one of his course.

IV. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist, That every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second session, at the latest, and the remainder of his discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last session of his course.

V. When a Student is to be proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting all the Certificates in favour of the Student, that are usually required on such occasions; to desire him to attend the same, and to inform him, that previously to the meeting, he ought to wait on such members of the Presbytery, as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

VI. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1st, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2d,

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2d, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3d, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a Certificate, or Certificates, from the Professor, or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a Certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within

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within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VII. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe appoint Preſbyteries to obſerve the ſeveral regulations which are preſcribed in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Preſbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Univerſities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe Profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tuition, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted, even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Aſſembly ordain, That if a Preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church Hiſtory; *2d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3d*, An Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Theſis; *4th*, A Homily in Engliſh; *5th*, An Exerciſe

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ercise and Addition; *6th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7th*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

XI. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1st, They shall deliberately and seriously take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

2d, If upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions which are appointed to be put to all who pass trials, by Act 10. Assemb. 1711, and require him to subscribe the Formula, which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said Formula.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act against Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence, agreeable to the form thereof, which is prescribed by the laws of this Church.

XII. For the better observance of this Act, the General Assembly ordain, *1st*, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; *2d*, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; *3d*, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective halls, once at least during every session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that session; *4th*, That a copy

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of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery within the bounds of this Church; and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the members; and, *lastly*, That when any Presbytery shall give a Probationer an extract of his licence, they shall subjoin to the form, which is already requisite on that occasion, the following words: "And the Presbytery do "hereby certify, That, in granting this licence, the Act "of Assembly respecting the licensing of Pro-"bationers, has been strictly observed."

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 22d day of May, in the year 1788.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDGMENT

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1787, which are not printed at full length.

May 17. 1787. *Sess.* 1*st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, in the usual manner; and, after prayer by the said Dr Duncan Shaw, Mr Robert Liston, Minister of Aberdour, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, was read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, was also read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, was also delivered to the Assembly, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.

Adjournment.

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May 18. 1787. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

The Committee for reviſing commiſſions appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock.

Mr William Murray *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, unanimouſly appointed aſſiſtant-clerk to Dr John Dryſdale, principal clerk of the Aſſembly, during all the diets thereof, and of the commiſſion, on account of the Doctor's bad ſtate of health.

The act 7. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 19. 1787. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The report of the Committee for reviſing commiſſions having paſſed the Committee for overtures, was called for, read, and conſidered by the Aſſembly.

An objection to the ſubſtitution, in the commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Jedburgh, becauſe it wanted the word eight, ſuſtained, and the commiſſioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commiſſion from the burgh of Lochmaben rejected, in reſpect the election was not made forty days before the meeting of the Aſſembly, and the commiſſioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commiſſion from the burgh of Irvine rejected for the ſame reaſon, and the commiſſioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly, brought in, and approved, and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read over.

Reſolve anent taking in cauſes.

The petition for the Preſbytery of Dunkeld read, and remitted to the conſideration of the Committee to be appointed

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pointed for considering the new applications for shares of the public money, &c.

The report of the Committee appointed by last General Assembly, for considering the overtures anent licensing Probationers, given in, and read; remitted to the consideration of a Committee, and to report to this Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and to collect any overtures made by the last Commission to this General Assembly, &c.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit and revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, and empowered them to receive in from the several members, any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands; particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May 21. 1787. *Sess.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The transactions of the Committee at Glasgow, appointed by a former Assembly for management of the fund collected for the education of students who understand the Gaelic language, given in, and a Committee appointed to revise the same, and to report to the Assembly on Friday next.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The overtures anent the sale of the right of patronage during a vacancy, from the Synods of Lothian and Tweeddale, Perth and Stirling, and Dumfries, were all read, and

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and the consideration thereof agreed to be taken up on Thursday first.

The overtures anent the new form of process, from the Presbytery of Brechin, Ayr, Dundee, Dumbarton, and Auchterarder, and from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, were likewise all read, and the consideration thereof agreed to be taken up on Friday first; and likewise the overtures from the Presbytery of Perth anent complaints and appeals.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read, and all petitions relating to the public money referred to the Committee on the public accounts.

A Committee named to revise the Synod-book of Fife.

A Committee named to revise the Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale.

None of the other Synods books brought up to this Assembly; resolved, that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

A petition for the Synod of Aberdeen, anent the glebe of Strichen, read, and a Committee appointed to consider the same, and to report.

An appeal of Sir Adam Ferguson of Kilkerran, Bart. and others, trustees of the deceased James Miliken, late of Miliken, Patron of the parish of Kilbarchan, and others, callers of Mr Patrick Maxwell, to be minister of that parish, from a sentence of the presbytery of Paisley, the 25th day of April last, delaying to proceed to the settlement: As also a petition and complaint for Messrs Walter Young, Robert Boog, John M'Caig, and others, complainers against the said sentence, heard, and the sentence of the presbytery *Reversed*, the call to Mr Maxwell *Sustained*, the presbytery of Paisley ordained to meet on the 14th of June next at Paisley, in order to receive this sentence; and in respect Mr Maxwell was an ordained Clergyman, and consequently no second trials necessary, appointed the presbytery, after having regularly served the edict, to meet at Kilbarchan on the 5th day of July next, to admit Mr Maxwell, minister of Kilbarchan, according to the rules of the Church: And found, that the presbytery of Paisley had been guilty of a most unjustifiable delay, in not judging of the call to Mr Maxwell, which they ought to have sustained.

The Committee for overtures, and for revising commissions, appointed to meet this evening at eight o'clock.

Adjournment.

May

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May 22. 1787. *Sess.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced, and openly read; and the commissions from the burghs of Bruntisland and Cupar rejected, because the elections were not made 40 days previous to the sitting of the Assembly, and ordained the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.

A petition for Donald Macqueen, Esq; of Corryburgh, and others, heritors of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie; William Gillivray of Garbel, and others, elders, and sixty-one heads of families, in the said united parishes, libellers of Mr James Macintosh, minister of these united parishes; as also a petition for the said James Macintosh, appealing from certain judgments of the Synod of Moray, heard: Mr Macintosh's appeals dismissed as frivolous; the proof held to be concluded: Found, that the Synod of Moray had done wrong in paying so much regard to Mr Macintosh's appeals, as to stop procedure; and agreed, for the sake of expediting justice, to proceed directly to consider the merits of the cause, and to call parties to the bar, and to hear them thereon to-morrow; and the Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole house to hear the above cause; and likewise, if time, to hear the cause of the parish of Dalton.

The Committee on the public accounts, the Committee for revising the Commission-book, and the Committee for revising the Royal Bounty book, appointed to meet to-morrow, at ten o'clock.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow at half past ten, in its usual place.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1787. *Sess.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced, openly read and sustained.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in and read.

A petition for Mr Thomas Smith, minister at Cumbertrees, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Procurator and Agent's accounts, with the report of the Committee thereon produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The report of the Committee of the whole house, in the cause at the instance of the heritors, elders, and heads of

 families

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families of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie, *contra* Mr James Macintosh, minister of these parishes, called for, given in, and read, bearing, That the sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, of the 4th of April 1787, ought to be reversed, in respect it is only an adherence to a sentence of deposition pronounced on the 1st day of March 1786, when the exculpatory proof allowed to Mr Macintosh, by the sentence of the General Assembly of that year, had not been taken or judged of by the Presbytery: That the proof adduced by the pursuers was sufficient to establish, that Mr James Macintosh had been guilty of the crime of fornication libelled against him; and that the exculpatory proof adduced by him, did not exculpate him from the said crime; and therefore, that the General Assembly ought to depose him from the office of the holy ministry. The General Assembly unanimously approved of the above report; and, upon a motion, delayed pronouncing the sentence of deposition, and intimating the same, till Monday next.

The report of the Committee of the whole house, in the cause at the instance of Robert Henderson of Cleughheads, Esq; and others, heritors of the parish of Dalton, libellers of Dr William Bryden, minister of that parish, called for, given in and read, bearing, That the General Assembly wave determining the several appeals, and take up the cause on the reference from the presbytery: Allow the prosecutors, at any time before the 12th of November next, to adduce the following witnesses, *viz.* John Foster, Jean Moffat in Maryport, William Burn, and Mary Dalzell in Carlisle, and George Millar, in support of the facts stated in their condescendence, exhibited before the Presbytery of Lochmaben: Appoint a Committee of Assembly to take the said proof, and also any exculpatory proof that may be offered for the defender, betwixt and the 12th day of March next, and report the same to the next Assembly; and instruct the Procurator to give the parties every legal and constitutional aid in his power, towards procuring the attendance of the said witnesses upon the Committee, to meet in this place at such times as shall be appointed by their convener, previous notice of 14 days being given to the parties or their doers. The General Assembly unanimously approved of the above report, and made some additions thereto.

Adjournment.

May

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May 24. 1787. *Seſſ.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

The appeal of Mr Rattray at Dalrulzian, agreed to be taken up to-morrow.

The overtures anent the ſale of the right of patronage, during a vacancy, conſidered; the General Aſſembly declare their high diſapprobation of all Simoniacal practices; and, as ſeveral Synods had expreſſed their fears, that the ſale of a patronage in the time of a vacancy, had a tendency to introduce ſuch practices, appointed a Committee to reviſe the laws concerning Simony, and to report to the next Aſſembly.

The reference from the Synod of Angus and Mearns, anent irregular marriages, read and conſidered, and unanimouſly remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to enquire into the circumſtances of this particular caſe, and to take ſuch ſteps as ſhould appear to them neceſſary, in order to bring the ſeſſion-clerk of Edinburgh, or his depute to puniſhment.

The Committee on the overture anent licenſing Probationers, appointed to meet to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

The Committee on the queſtion anent the glebe of Strichen, appointed to meet this evening at 7 o'clock.

The Committee for overtures, appointed to meet this evening at 7 o'clock.

The Committee on Mr Frederick Maclaggan's caſe, renewed with the former powers.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1787. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in and read, and the new overtures tranſmitted anent the form of proceſs, appointed to be conſidered this day, along with the overtures already before the houſe on that ſubject.

The report of the Committee on the overture anent licenſing Probationers, called for, given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow, and then to be conſidered.

The report of the Committee, appointed by laſt General Aſſembly on the overtures anent appeals, *&c.* given in by the Convener of that Committee, read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Committee for managing the Enzie fund, renewed with the former powers.

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The report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Synod of Aberdeen, anent the glebe of Strichen, given in, read, and approven of.

The report of the Procurator upon the overture transmitted by last Assembly, anent the new form of process, called for, and the Procurator heard thereupon; and after reasoning upon the overtures from the several Synods and Presbyteries, in respect it appeared from the Procurator's report, that the majority of the Presbyteries of this Church had disapproved of the said overture, the General Assembly dismissed the same: But as it likewise appeared, from the reports of Presbyteries, that there was a general opinion prevailing among the members of this Church, that some alterations were necessary to be made on the present form of process; the General Assembly, therefore, unanimously appointed a Committee to take this subject into consideration, and to prepare amendments upon the form of process, to be reported by them to next Assembly; and, that this Committee might be able to understand what the general sentiments of the Church are upon this matter, appointed the several Presbyteries to send up their sentiments thereon, to the Procurator, Convener of the Committee, on or before the 1st day of October next.

An appeal of Thomas Rattray of Dalrulzian, Esq; from a sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling in October last, dismissing a condescendence given in by him, as totally irrelevant, heard, and the sentences of the Presbytery of Dunkeld unanimously reversed, in so far as they dismissed the condescendence as totally irrelevant: Found the facts stated in the condescendence irrelevant for exculpation, and remitted to the Presbytery to proceed in the proof of these facts, according to the rules of the Church; but found, that it was contrary to the form of process, to examine Isobel Downie upon oath.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1787. *Sess.* 9*th*.

Sederunt.

For the better information of Presbyteries respecting the resolution of yesterday, anent the revising of the form of judicial proceedings of this Church, appointed 300 copies thereof to be printed, and three copies of the same to be delivered to each Presbytery.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging

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ging him and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 499, 9 s. 1 $\frac{4}{12}$ d. Sterling, disbursed by him; and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 6 : 15 : 2 $\frac{2}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging him of the sum of L. 257 : 4 : 2 Sterling, disbursed by him, and authorising him to take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 69 : 14 : 2 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church.

Act approving the account of Mr Elphingston Balfour, Stationer for the Church.

The report of the Committee, named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, together with the Procurator and Committee's opinion thereon, given in, read, and approven of.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr Brown, minister at Newhills, L. 30 this year; and recommended it to the next Assembly to grant him other L. 30.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr William Mitchell, minister at Tingwall, the sum of L. 11 : 7 : 7 Sterling.

The process of suspension depending before the Court of Session, between Sir Thomas Dundas, and Mr John Scollay, minister at St Andrew's, and Deerness in Orkney, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on and finish at the public expence.

The process of augmentation at the instance of Mr James Barclay, minister at Unst in Zetland, against his heritors, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr Robert Mutter, minister at Kirkcudbright, the sum of L. 25 Sterling this year, and the like sum of L. 25 Sterling next year, in full of his claim.

The Procurator and Agent for the Church instructed to take such steps as shall appear necessary to bring the process against Mr Rattray of Dalrulzian to a final issue; and empowered the Procurator, if necessary, to apply to his Majesty's Advocate, in name of the Venerable Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for his instance.

The desire of the petition for Mr Richard Scott, minister at Ewes, refused.

The petition for Mr Robert Thomson, minister at Killean, delayed.

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Upon a motion, the Procurator and Agent for the Church authorised to take such steps in the process of augmentation at the instance of Mr William Mitchell, minister at Tingwall, against his heritors, presently depending before the Commission of Teinds, as may appear necessary for bringing the said process to a final issue.

A representation and petition for the trustees, and other managers of the Scotch Church at Shelburn in the Province of Nova Scotia, in behalf of themselves, and the other Loyalists, members of that Church, read; and the Assembly considering, that although the present state of this country will not permit them to give any aid, yet they declare their approbation of the loyalty and attachment of the petitioners to this country, and to the Church of Scotland, expressed in their petition, and of their design of building a house for public worship; encourage them to persevere in prosecuting their pious purpose, and empower their Moderator to transmit to them a copy of this deliverance upon their petition.

Upon a motion, the General Assembly ordered the sum of ten guineas, to be paid to Mr William Murray, as an acknowledgment for the trouble which he has had about the Sketch of the New Form of Process; and authorised the Procurator to pay the same accordingly.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-book given in and read, and the Commission's conduct approven of. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved of. The members from the Presbyteries and Burghs, whose commissions were rejected for informalities, the members in the Commission from the Presbytery of Lochmaben, (which was brought up, but owing to an accident not given in to the Assembly), and Dr Hugh Blair in place of the Moderator, were added thereto.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty register given in, and read. The conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission, and instructions to them.

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The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale atteſted.

The Synod-book of Fife atteſted.

The Aſſembly ordered all the other Synod-books which had not been ſent up to this Aſſembly, to be ſent up to next Aſſembly, and the Preſbytery-book of Zetland.

A Committee named on the ſcheme for erecting new pariſhes in the Highlands and Iſlands.

The report of the truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters widows, *&c.* containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till next diet; and, upon a motion, the thanks of the houſe given to Sir Harry Moncrieff, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

The interim-act and overture anent ordained aſſiſtants, ordered to be continued, and the overture on the ſame ſubject, and alſo the overture anent the ordination of elders, to be retranſmitted; but diſmiſſed the overture anent ſtudents having the Gaelic language.

The report of the Committee on the overtures anent the licenſing of Probationers, unanimouſly approven of; appointed the ſame to be tranſmitted as an overture, and ſpecially enjoined Preſbyteries to take this overture into conſideration, in ſufficient time to have their returns ſent up to next General Aſſembly, and, in their returns, to give an explicit opinion, approving or diſapproving of each particular paragraph.

Upon a motion, the thanks of the houſe given to Dr Henry Grieve, for the great trouble he had taken in collecting the ſentiments of the Church, with regard to the proper rules to be obſerved in licenſing Probationers, and in preparing an overture on that ſubject, which had received the unanimous approbation of the General Aſſembly.

The overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling anent atteſting commiſſions to Elders, agreed to be tranſmitted. (*Vide* the printed Acts).

The overtures from the Synod of Fife, and Preſbytery of Jedburgh anent appeals, ordered to lie on the table.

The Committee on the overtures anent the ſale of patronage, appointed to meet on Monday at eleven o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1787. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

The report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion for Miniſters widows, *&c.*

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&c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The General Assembly, after prayer, deposed Mr James Macintosh, minister of Moy and Dalarossie, from the office of the holy ministry, prohibiting and discharging him to exercise the same, or any part thereof, in all time coming; and ordained the Presbytery of Inverness to cause intimate this sentence from the pulpit of the parishes of Moy and Dalarossie.

On a motion, it was recommended to the Committee on the Royal Bounty, in respect of the particular circumstances of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie, to allow the missionary, presently employed in these parishes, to continue on their scheme to the 1st day of November next.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and pronouncing the blessing.

FINIS.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 22d Day of *May* 1788.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church of *Scotland.*

M,DCC,LXXXVIII.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *May* 1788, and concluded the 2d Day of *June* in the said Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, *May* 22. 1788.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great

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Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum secundum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abunde cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abunde satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum*

dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud St James's, vigesimo octavo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini milesimo septingentesimo octogesimo octavo, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo octavo.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. We repeat with great pleasure Our marks of approbation of your wise and prudent conduct in your social proceedings, which so much tend to the preservation of true Religion and Virtue, and wherein you shew your real zeal for the support of Our Government and Royal Person.

Being fully determined at all times to preserve to the Church of Scotland, all its legal Rights, Dignities, and Privileges, We do, with more confidence, recommend to you Our earnest wish, that your present meeting should be characterised by every example against disputes, and unnecessary and unbecoming discussions; that it should hold forth every temptation to pursue the paths of Christian Virtue, and every discouragement to idleness and vice.

Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, has so much shewn his love of virtue, and his real attachment to the good of his Country and of Our Government, in the execution of the very great and interesting charge of Our Lord High Commissioner

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to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that We are encouraged to hope that, by reappointing him to that office, We shall grant you a gracious and acceptable mark of Our Favour.

We have therefore only to express Our hope, that you will observe Our recommendation of unanimity and brotherly love to each other, in all business which may be to judge of; in the end, that this present Assembly may as happily conclude as any other which have preceded it. And so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St James's, the 5th day of May 1788, in the 28th year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

Addressed thus: To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE gracious letter, with which Your Majesty hath been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly, was received with becoming respect and gratitude.

The distinguished marks which Your Majesty has given of Your Royal approbation of the conduct of former Assemblies, and which You graciously condescend to repeat at this time, afford us the most sincere satisfaction, and are

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are a most animating motive to induce us to persevere in our earnest endeavours for the preservation and advancement of true Religion and Virtue, and to embrace every opportunity of testifying the ardent zeal which we feel for the support of Your Majesty's Government and Royal Person.

Upon Your Majesty's renewed assurances to preserve to the Church of Scotland, all its legal rights, dignities, and privileges, we rest with that entire confidence, which is due from subjects to a Sovereign, who makes the Laws the rule of his Government; and we bless the King of Kings, that we live under a Prince, who shews himself the true nursing Father of the Church, by recommending to us, as his earnest wish, and as the most effectual method of securing the continuance of his protection, that we should hold forth an example of Christian Charity, and every incitement to pursue the paths of Christian Virtue, and that we should give every discouragement to idleness and vice.

We gladly embrace this opportunity of offering our humble thanks to Your Majesty for Your late Royal Proclamation, for the encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for preventing and punishing vice, profaneness, and immorality, which is truly worthy of a Christian Prince, and a strong proof of the same watchful attention to the best interests of Your Kingdom, which is so fully expressed in Your Majesty's gracious letter to this Assembly. Deeply sensible that righteousness exalteth a nation, and that sin is the reproach of any people, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that we will most cheerfully exert ourselves to the utmost of our power, in recommending and enforcing Your Majesty's pious commands, by promoting among the people under our care, a sacred regard to the institutions and laws of our holy Religion.

We have had so much experience of the many amiable virtues by which the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven is distinguished; and his love of virtue and real attachment to the good of his Country, and the interests of the Church of Scotland, are so generally known, that we receive Your Majesty's reappointment of him to the very great and interesting charge of Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as a gracious and acceptable mark of Your favour.

Your Majesty's Royal Donation of a thousand pounds for the Propagation of Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive with the sincerest gratitude;

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tude; and we ſhall be careful in applying it to the pious purpoſes for which it is beſtowed.

Convinced that unanimity and brotherly love are becoming our characters as miniſters of the Prince of Peace, and will give dignity to our proceedings, we ſhall ſtudy to obſerve Your Majeſty's recommendation, and to conduct our buſineſs in ſuch a manner as to bring the Aſſembly to a happy concluſion.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, may protect Your Perſon, and eſtabliſh Your Throne in righteouſneſs; That he may pour down his beſt bleſſings upon our gracious Queen, his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long, with wiſdom and felicity, over a free, a dutiful, and an affectionate people, You may enter thoſe happy regions, where pious and virtuous Princes receive an unfading Crown, is the earneſt prayer of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal ſubjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, *Mod.*

IV.

An Addreſs by the General Aſſembly to his Majeſty.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the National Aſſembly, beg leave to approach Your throne, with hearts full of loyalty and affection.

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We ſhould be unworthy of the ſtation we hold, if we did not gladly embrace this firſt opportunity of congratulating Your Majeſty on the happy effects of Your wiſe and vigorous meaſures, during the courſe of laſt year, when, under the direction of Divine Providence, You delivered this nation from the danger of being involved in war, by preſerving the independence, and re-eſtabliſhing the legal government of a neighbouring Proteſtant State, and happily revived with it an ancient and cloſe alliance, which, for ſo long a period, had been ſalutary to Your Majeſty's kingdoms.

While we contemplate the preſent poſture of our public affairs in general, and our friendly league with the Republic of the United Provinces in particular, with thankfulneſs to Heaven, and the warmeſt approbation of Your Majeſty's conduct, we feel ourſelves called upon to commemorate that glorious event, the Revolution of 1688, which delivered us from Popery and arbitrary power, and fixed that conſtitution of government which is the wonder and envy of the world, not more for civil and political liberty, than for juſtice and humanity; which has hitherto had force ſufficient to repair its internal diſorders, as well as to repel external violence, and which the experience of a century now entitles us to hope may be as laſting as it is excellent. An event the more endeared to our remembrance, as from thence was derived the ſettlement of the Crown of Britain on Your Majeſty's Illuſtrious Family, who have hitherto ſwayed the ſceptre with ſo much wiſdom and equity; and with ſuch a ſacred regard to the rights of the nation, as to ſecure the confidence and affection of their ſubjects, and to leave no doubt on our minds, That the ſtability of the conſtitution, and the proſperity of the people, will ever continue to be the great object of their government.

With ſuch deep impreſſions of the felicity of that Great Æra, to which, beſides all other advantages, we owe the reſtoration and ſecurity of our Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment, Your Majeſty may be aſſured, that we ſhall neglect no proper opportunity of making the people under our care duly ſenſible of the diſtinguiſhed bleſſings they enjoy under Divine Providence, and of exciting in their minds ſentiments of affection and loyalty to Your Majeſty, the faithful Guardian of all our Liberties.

That Your Majeſty may reign long over a free and happy people: That the Almighty may guard Your Sacred Perſon from every danger, and beſtow on You every

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blessing: That he may bless and preserve the Queen, Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that a race of kings of Your Illustrious Line, may, to the latest posterity, sit on the throne of these realms, is the earnest prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, *Mod.*

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr David Moncrieff at Rogarton, Mr Thomas Fergus at Denny, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendovan, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Robert Lifton at Aberdour, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr Andrew Walker at

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at Colleſſie, Principal M'Cormick, St Andrews, Profeſſor George Hill, St Andrews, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr David Ferguſon at Farnell, Mr John Hutchiſon at Fetteresſo, Mr James Forſyth at Belhelvie, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Patrick Davidſon at Rayne, Mr Andrew Youngſon at Aberdour, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr Alexander Coull at Edenkillie, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr George Watſon at Inverneſs, Mr Robert Munro at Kilmuir Weſter, Mr George Balfour at Tarbet, Mr Daniel Roſe at Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleſkin, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalſh, Mr Æneas Macleod at Rogart, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr William Anderſon at Evie and Rendal, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, Mr John Anderſon at Stronſay, Mr David Thomſon at Walls, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr Bernard Halden at Glenholm, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr William Crombie at Spott, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouſton, Mr John Riccleton at Hopkirk, Dr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Stephen Oliver at Maxton, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr William Grierſon at Glencairn, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr Philip Moriſon at Balmaghie, Mr John Dickſon at Kirkowan, Mr James Caddle at Newluce, Mr John Macdermid Ferguſhill at Straiton, Mr Thomas Briſbane at Dunlop, Mr John Monteith *ſenior* at Houſton, Mr Patrick Maxwell at Eaſt Monkland, Mr James Gray at Lanark, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr James Jeffry at Balfron, Mr Charles Stewart at Strathchur, Mr Robert Thomſon at Killean, Dr Joſeph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr John Grant, at Kirkmichael, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, miniſters; Thomas Elder, Eſq; of Forreth, George Wright, Eſq; of Laton, John Erſkine, Eſq; advocate, the Honourable Hen-

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ry Erſkine, Profeſſor Richardſon, Sir Charles Preſton, Mr James Fergus, Andrew Hamilton, Eſq; Major John Melvell, Profeſſor Cook, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, Alexander Watſon, Eſq; of Turren, Mr Thomas Mill, merchant, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Alexander Burnet, Eſq; advocate, Profeſſor Playfair, Mr Cunningham of Hyndhope, William Macdonald, of Rinnſton, Eſq; Profeſſor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, George Buchan-Hepburn, Eſq; Mr John Taylor, writer, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Mr John Robertſon, writer, Mr John Ruſſell *jun.* writer, Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Iſaac Grant, writer, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer, Walter Dunbar, Eſq; Mr Ludovick Grant *jun.* writer, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Robert Macintoſh, Eſq; advocate, Convener Lindſay, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Donald Smith, Eſq; Edinburgh, Robert Bruce-Macleod, Eſq; the Procurator, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Eſq; Profeſſor Macleod, General Mackay, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate, Mr George Home, baker, Profeſſor Dalzell, Mr Walter Scott, writer, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Dempſter, Profeſſor Walker, the Honourable Captain Sandilands, Provoſt Clark, Captain Taylor, Mr James Home, writer, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Mr Solicitor General, John Hamilton, Eſq; Hugh Dalrymple, Eſq; Mr James Veitch, James Wilkie, Eſq; Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; John Stewart, Eſq; the Honourable Henry Dundas, Bailie James Dickſon, Hugh Scott, Eſq; William Elliot, Eſq; Richard Tod, Eſq; Sir William Maxwell, Mr James Saunders, writer, Mr William Gregan, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, John Macmurdo, Eſq; Profeſſor George Jardin, Mr William Anderſon, Alexander Ferguſon, Eſq; advocate, Mr Horatius Canan, writer, Mr James Jamieſon, Mr James Torry, merchant, the Lord Preſident, John Hamilton, Eſq; Mr John Ruſſel, Mr Alexander Weir, Henry Stewart, Eſq; Bailie William Telfar, Alexander Wight, Eſq; advocate, the Lord Advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, Robert Cullen, Eſq; Archibald Macdonald, Eſq; William Campbell, Eſq; Profeſſor Williamſon, Colonel Robert Campbell, Allan Macdougald, Eſq; Profeſſor Finlayſon, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according

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ing to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, *prudent*, of undoubted loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certi-

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ficates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh,

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burgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty, is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their

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their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College, their Moderator; and from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Dr Thomas Bisset at Logierate, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr Alexander Stewart at Moulin, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, ministers, Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, and David Stewart, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr David Moncrief at Rogarton, Mr William Lang at Arngosk, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, ministers, George Wright, Esq; of Laton, and Bailie John Caw, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Fergus at Denny, Mr James Robertson at Gargunnock, ministers, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Mathew at Glendovan, Mr William Graham at Fossoway, Mr James Ramsay at Madderty, ministers, the Right Hon. Henry Erskine, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr

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Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhidder, ministers, Professor William Richardson, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Peter Primrose at Dalgety, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culross, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr John Scot at Auchtertool, ministers, James Townsend Oswald, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus; from the burgh of Kinghorn, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Provost of Kinghorn; from the burgh of Burntisland, Bailie John Thomson, Burntisland; from the burgh of Dysart, Bailie Alexander Thomson, Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Alexander Walker at Colleffie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, ministers, Mr Henry Thomas at Belhelvie, Mr Henry Birrel at Auchtermuchty, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvil of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Principal Maccormick, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr William Peirmont at Ely, Mr James Beatson at Kingsbarns, ministers, Lieutenant-colonel Monipenny, Professor John Cook, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician, Edinburgh; from the university of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the presbytery of Meigle, Dr James Playfair, Meigle, Mr James Ogilvy at Essie, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alison, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger, of Turin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr Robert Small, Dundee, Mr John Millar, Inchture, Mr William Johnston, Monifeith, ministers, Mr David Law, merchant, Dundee, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr William Milligan, Kirkden, Mr David Syme at Barrie, ministers, Mr Thomas Mill, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr David Fergusson at Farnel, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr Robert Hannay at Strickathrow, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr John Hutchison at Fettereso, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgrig, ministers, Professor Playfair, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr

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James Forſyth at Belhelvie, Mr James Hog at Skein, Mr James Sherriffs at Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, miniſters, Provoſt William Crowden, James Cunningham, Eſq; ruling elders; from the King's College, Mr Roderick Macleod, Sub-principal; from the preſbytery of Kincardine O'neal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr George Knowles at Birſe, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, miniſters, William Macdonald, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Alford, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr George Donaldſon at Kennethmont, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, miniſters, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Ellon, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr William Paterſon at Logie, miniſters, Profeſſor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Garioch, Mr Patrick Davidſon at Reyne, Mr George Skein-Keith at Keithall, Mr William Maccliesh at Culſalmond, miniſters, George Buchan-Hepburn, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Deer, Mr Andrew Youngſon, at Aberdour, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Hugh Taylor at Newdeer, miniſters, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Turreff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Ballingal at Forglen, miniſters, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Walter Chambers at Deſkford, miniſters, Mr John Robertſon, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr John Ruſſel *junior*, clerk to the Signet; from the preſbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, miniſters, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, miniſters, Mr Iſaac Grant, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Abernethy, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthel, Mr John Grant, Kirkmichael, miniſters, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr John Reid at Duffus, miniſters, Mr Thomas Gordon, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkelly, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, miniſters, Walter Dunbar, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant *junior*, writer, Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Nairne, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Morriſon at Nairne, miniſters, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Inverneſs, Mr George Watſon at Inverneſs, Mr Alexander

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der Gordon at Deviot, ministers, Robert Macintosh, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Munro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr James Munro at Cromarty, ministers, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, ministers, Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskeen, Mr James Grant at Laggan, ministers, Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadbole, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, Lord Macdonald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, ministers, the Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr John Macqueen at Applecross, ministers, William-Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr Æneas Macleod at Rogart, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr John Thomson at Durness, ministers, General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Thomas Jolly at Dunnet, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Randal, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, ministers, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, Mr George Home baker, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Edie, Mr James Izet at Westry, ministers; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr John Inches at Nesting, Mr David Thomson at Walls, ministers, Professor Dalzell, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Drysdale, Edinburgh, Mr James Craig at Currie, Dr David Johnston, North Leith, Dr Andrew Hunter, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Hardie, Edinburgh, Mr William Greenfield, Edinburgh, ministers, Mr Walter Scot, clerk to the Signet, Mr John Haddoway,

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doway, Mr Francis Braidwood, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provoſt, Convener Dempſter; from the univerſity of Edinburgh, Profeſſor Walker; from the preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr John Henderſon at Queensferry, Mr William Peterkin at Eccleſmachen, Mr John Muir at Falkirk, miniſters, Sir William Auguſtus Cunningham, the Honourable Captain Sandilands, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provoſt Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor; from the preſbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William How at Skirling, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, miniſters, Mr James Home, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Peebles, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, Mr Patrick Robertſon at Edleſton, miniſters, Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Henry Grieve, Dalkeith, Mr James Finlayſon, Borthwick, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Inveresk, miniſters, Mr Solicitor-general, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Haddington, Dr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Mr Henry Sangſter at Humbie, miniſters, John Hamilton Eſq; of Pencaitland, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr James Veitch merchant, Haddington; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Eſq; younger, of North Berwick; from the preſbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spot, Mr Alexander Davidſon at Stenton, miniſters, James Wilkie of Gilkerſton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dunſe, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, miniſters, Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Chirnſide, Mr George Couples at Swinton, Mr George Tod, Eyemouth, miniſters, John Stewart, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kelſo, Mr James Richardſon, Morebattle, Mr Robert Turnbull, Sprouſton, miniſters, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Riccalton at Hobkirk, Dr William Burn at Minto, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, miniſters, Bailie Dickſon, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lauder, Dr James Ford, Lauder, Mr William Gillon at Legertwood, miniſters, Hugh Scot, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Selkirk, Mr Stephen Oliver, Maxton, Mr William Campbell, Lilliesleaf, miniſters, William Elliot, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Richard Tod, Eſq; merchant, Leith; from the

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the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith, Cumbertrees, Wr William-Hardie Moncrief at Annan, ministers, Sir William Maxwell, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr John Laurie at Eskdalemuir, ministers, Mr James Saunders, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr Jacob Dickson at Mousewald, Mr Robert Little, Applegirth, ministers, Mr William Gregan, Newmains, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr William Grierson at Glencairn, Mr James Wallace at Keir, ministers, John Macmurdo, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Professor George Jardine; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr James Heron at Kirkgunzian, Mr William Macmorrin at Carlaverock, ministers, William Anderson, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Alexander Ferguson, Esq; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Philip Morrison at Balmaghie, Mr Thomas Halliday at Kelton, Mr Nathaniel Mackie at Balmaclellan, ministers, Horatius Cannan, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr John Dickson at Kirkowan, Mr John Stephen at Mochrum, ministers, Mr James Jamieson, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn, John Bushby, Esq; from the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr James Caddel, Newluce, Mr Henry Blain at Stonykirk, ministers, Bailie Torrie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Macdermid Fergushill, at Straton, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monckton, Dr Patrick Woodrow, Tarbolton, Mr James Young, New Cumnock, Mr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, ministers, Lord President, John Hamilton, Esq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, George Ferguson, Esq; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Thomas Brisbane, Dunlop, Mr William Boyd at Fenwick, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, ministers, Mr John Russel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, the Hon. Patrick Boyle; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John Monteith, *senior*, at Houston, Mr John Monteith, *junior*, at Nelston, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr John Finlay of the High Church, Paisley, ministers, John Patieson, Esq; Mr Alexander Weir merchant, Paisley, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Patrick Maxwell, East Monkland, Dr Alexander Hutchison, Hamilton, Mr Robert Clawson, Dalziel, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James

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Gray, Lanark, Mr James Scot, Carluke, miniſters, Bailie William Telfer, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Alexander Wight, Eſq; advocate; from the preſbytery of Glaſgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr John Telfer, Kilſyth, Mr John Burns, Barony-Pariſh, Mr William Anderſon, Gorbals, miniſters, Mr John Tenant brewer, Glaſgow, Mr Malcolm Macgilivray, Glaſgow, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Dumbarton, Mr James Jeffrey at Balfron, Mr George Syme, New Kilpatrick, Mr Andrew Whyte at Kilmaronock, miniſters, Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, Sir James Colquhoun, Baronet; from the preſbytery of Dunoon, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, miniſters, Robert Cullen, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomſon at Killean, Mr George Robertſon, Campbelton, Mr Dugald Macdougald at Gigha, miniſters, Archibald Macdonald, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, William Campbell, Eſq; from the burgh of Inverary, Profeſſor Williamſon; from the preſbytery of Lorn, Dr Joſeph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandan, miniſters, Colonel Robert Campbell, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Mull, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, miniſters, Allan Macdougal, Eſq; ruling elder; to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not

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not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above

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above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VII.

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VII.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

VIII.

Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a Certificate from the

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minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied; from which it may be clearly ascertained, that in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some sessions of College preceding that in which the Certificates are produced.

II. To afford the better security for the regular and exemplary conduct of Students in Divinity, it is hereby enacted, That upon the conclusion of that session in which they were first inrolled by the Professor, they shall, some time within six kalendar months thereafter, intimate to the Presbyteries, in whose bounds they have their respective places of residence, that they have commenced Students in Divinity; and that, if any Student has occasion to remove from the bounds of one Presbytery to those of another, he shall, within six kalendar months after said removal, intimate the same to the Presbytery in whose bounds he is to have his new residence, and produce to them a Certificate of his character from that Presbytery with whom he was last connected; or at least a certificate of his moral character from the minister of the parish in which he resided. And it is farther enacted, that the several Presbyteries of this Church, shall keep exact lists of such Students of Divinity, as reside within their bounds, and watch over the conduct of the said Students.

III. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six years: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in four sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in five sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several sessions of their respective courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided,

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vided, an *Exegesis* in Latin on some controverted head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a Popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises, as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. It is likewise hereby enacted, that, in each of these respective cases, the course shall be computed from the commencement of that session in which the Student was originally inrolled; and that if a Student be proposed to any Presbytery for trials, during the currency of his fourth, fifth or sixth session, according to the special nature of his case, that session shall be sustained as one of his course.

IV. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist, That every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second session, at the latest, and the remainder of his discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last session of his course.

V. When a Student is to be proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting all the Certificates in favour of the Student, that are usually required on such occasions; to desire him to attend the same, and to inform him, that previously to the meeting, he ought to wait on such members of the Presbytery, as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

VI. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1*st*, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2*d*, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3*d*,

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3d, No Student shall be admitted to trials unless he produces to the Presbytery, a Certificate or Certificates, from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, *two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same*, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular

letters

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letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VII. The General Assembly do likewise appoint Presbyteries to observe the several regulations which are prescribed in the immediately preceding section of this act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1st*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; *2d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3d*, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; *4th*, A Homily in English; *5th*, An Exercise and Addition; *6th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7th*, A popular Sermon; it being un-

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derſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral diſcourſes.

XI. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1ſt, They ſhall deliberately and ſeriouſly take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall by no means grant him a licence in his preſent circumſtances.

2d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions which are appointed to be put to all who paſs trials, by Act 10. Aſſemb. 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula*, which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid Formula.

4th, The Preſbytery ſhall order the act against Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

Laſtly, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licenſe the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their Clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licence, agreeable to the form thereof, which is preſcribed by the laws of this Church.

XII. For the better obſervance of this Act, the General Aſſembly ordain, *1ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; *2d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; *3d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective halls, once at leaſt during every ſeſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that ſeſſion; *4th*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Preſbytery within the bounds of

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of this Church; and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the members; and, *lastly*, That when any Presbytery shall give a Probationer, an extract of his licence, they shall subjoin to the form, which is already requisite on that occasion, the following words: "And the Presbytery do "hereby certify, That, in granting this licence, the Act "of Assembly respecting the licensing of Pro-"bationers, has been strictly observed."

IX.

Act concerning the Attestation of Kirk-sessions to Commissions from Burghs.

It was overtured to the General Assembly, that for removing certain difficulties in the mode of attesting commissions from certain burghs, the Assembly should pass an act to the following purport:

WHEREAS, by Act 9. of Assemb. 1718, and Act 4. of Assemb. 1720, it is ordained and required, That commissions from royal Boroughs, to their representatives in the General Assembly, shall be attested by the Kirk-sessions of the electing Boroughs respectively:

The Assembly, considering that in certain of the greater boroughs within the bounds of this Church, there are several parishes, and different Kirk-sessions within the royalty; and that, in these cases, there has been hitherto no legal enactment to direct the mode in which the sessional attestations are to be adhibited to commissions from such boroughs to their representatives in the General Assembly:

To remove any doubts which may arise in such situations, the Assembly hereby *appoints* and *declares*, That the attestation of any one Kirk-session within the electing Borough shall be held as competent and sufficient to all the purposes for which Sessional attestations are required.

X.

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X.

Act appointing a National Thanksgiving in Commemoration of the Revolution in 1688.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1788.

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, recollecting, with gratitude to Almighty God, the happy and glorious Event, that in the year 1688 (of which the present year is the Secular Anniversary) delivered the Nation from Civil and Religious Oppression, set proper bounds to the Royal Prerogative, secured the Liberties and just Rights of the People, and confirmed to this National Church all the Religious Rights and Privileges which she now enjoys under the Illustrious House of HANOVER. And being fully convinced, that the Principles of the Revolution Settlement are the only foundation on which the Security of the Throne, and the Happiness of the Subjects can be permanently established, they think themselves called upon by their duty to God and to their Country, to embrace every proper opportunity of recalling to the serious and grateful recollection of the People committed to their charge, this special interposition of Divine Providence in their favour, of impressing on their minds a lively Sense of the Value of the Civil and Religious Liberties thereby attained, and of exhorting them by every constitutional means, to preserve and transmit them inviolate to the latest Posterity. And considering that the blessings enjoyed by the People of this free and happy Country, in consequence of the Revolution, do far exceed the measure of Civil and Religious Advantages, which the Providence of God hath allotted to any other Nation: Therefore the General Assembly did, and hereby by do appoint *the fifth day of November this year*, to be observed, within the bounds of this National Church, as a Day of Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the Enjoyment of those inestimable Blessings for a Century past, and of earnest Supplication for their Continuance to the latest Generations: And the Assembly enjoins all Ministers

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Ministers to intimate this Act from their Pulpits upon the Lord's Day immediately preceding the said fifth day of November this year, and to accompany the Intimation with suitable Exhortations.

XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Aysle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 21st day of May, in the year 1789.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly,

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDGMENT

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1788, which are not printed at full length.

May 22. 1788. *Sess. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Mr Robert Liston, minister of the Gospel at Aberdour, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, in the usual manner, and, after prayer by the said Mr Robert Liston, the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of the College of Glasgow, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent His Majesty's Royal Person, was read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, was also read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, was also delivered to the Assembly, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Letter from Mr William Robertson, advocate, Procurator for the Church, apologizing for his not attending his duty in the Assembly, on account of his bad state of health, was given in, and read, and his excuse sustained.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

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A Committee for overtures named.
A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournmennt.

May 23. 1788. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.
New commiſſions produced.
A diet ſpent in Prayer.
The Act 7. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.
Mr Andrew Dalzel, Profeſſor of Greek in the univerſity of Edinburgh, unanimouſly appointed aſſiſtant-clerk to Dr John Dryſdale, principal clerk of the Aſſembly, during all the diets of this Aſſembly, and the commiſſions thereof, on account of the ſaid Dr Dryſdale's infirm ſtate of health.
Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's High Commiſſioner.
The Committee for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, in the uſual places.
Adjournment.

May 24. 1788. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.
New commiſſions produced.
The Report of the Committee for reviſing commiſſions having paſſed the Committee for overtures, was called for, read, and conſidered by the Aſſembly.
It was objected to the commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Lauder, That "the Preſbytery cannot atteſt, that the "ruling elder, Mr Scott, *junior* of Harden, has yet ſign-"ed the *formula*, he being now in London." The Aſſembly approved of the report of the Committee for overtures, *viz.* That it is competent for Mr Scott to purge the objection at the bar, on his appearance in the Aſſembly.
The commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Sky rejected, becauſe it wants the atteſtation altogether, and the commiſſioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.
It was objected to the commiſſion from the burgh of Irvine, "That the reſolution to elect was upon the 29th "of March, and the day of election on the 8th of "April." The Aſſembly, without a vote, repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the commiſſion.

It

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It was objected to the commiſſions from the burghs of Inverary and Sanquhar, " That the atteſtation of " the kirk-ſeſſion of both, wants the words *atteſted by*." The Aſſembly repelled the objections, and ſuſtained the commiſſions.

The draught of an Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, being brought in, a motion was made and ſeconded, That certain words ſhould ſtand part of the Anſwer; and the following ſtate of a vote was agreed to, *Adopt* or *Not*; it being underſtood, if it carried *Adopt*, that the propoſed words ſhould ſtand part of the Anſwer; and if it carried *Not*, that they ſhould be rejected; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Not*. The Aſſembly, therefore, rejected the above motion, and approved of the original Anſwer, which his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit to His Majeſty.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read over.

The whole of the proof in the cauſe of Dalton, ordered to be printed; and the time for other cauſes fixed.

A Committee named to reviſe the regiſter of the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly, and to collect any overtures made by the laſt Commiſſion to this General Aſſembly, *&c.*

A Committee named to reviſe the regiſter of the actings and proceedings of the Committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A Committee named to audit and reviſe the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, and empowered to receive in from the ſeveral members, any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Aſſembly; and to receive in and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof

Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May

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May 26. 1788. *Sess.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet this evening.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the overtures in the following order, *viz.* To-morrow, 1*st*, The overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, respecting the suppression and annexation of benefices: 2*d*, The overtures anent the taxes upon the clergy; and, 3*dly*, The overtures respecting the sale of patronages during a vacancy. And to consider on Wednesday, 1*st*, The overtures concerning the commemoration of the Revolution; and, 2*dly*, The overtures relative to the Slave-trade.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read, and all petitions relating to the public money, referred to the Committee on public accounts.

A Committee named to revise the Synod-book of Glenelg.

None of the other Synod-books brought up to this Assembly. Resolved, that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

The deliverance of last General Assembly, respecting the glebe of Strichen, and the report and opinion by the Procurator on that affair, in consequence of the steps that had been taken since last Assembly, being read, the Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the said opinion, and therefore remitted the above affair to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, authorising them, in the name and by the authority of the General Assembly, and at the public expence of the Church, to take such steps as may be necessary to set the said excambion aside.

The reference from the Synod, and from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, concerning the number of elders the Kirk-session of Aberdeen is entitled to be represented by, in the Synod and Presbytery, being read, and considered, the Assembly, without debate, unanimously found, That the Kirk-session of Aberdeen have no right to send more than one elder to represent them, either in the Presbytery or Synod of Aberdeen.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May

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May 27. 1788. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures, read and approved.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

A motion was made to addreſs His Majeſty on the important events of laſt year, *&c.* The conſideration whereof delayed till after the diſcuſſion of the buſineſs appointed for to-morrow.

The overture from the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale, reſpecting the ſuppreſſion and annexation of benefices, remitted to the Procurator for his opinion.

The overtures from the Synod of Dumfries, from the Preſbytery of Biggar, and from Mr Sutherland at Wick, anent the taxes upon the Clergy, referred to a Committee, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, and to give in their report to the Aſſembly on Friday next.

The conſideration of the overtures anent the ſale of patronage, delayed till to-morrow.

The Committee on public accounts, and the Committees for reviſing the Commiſſion-record, and the Royal Bounty record, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Agreed to take up Dr Bryden's cauſe on Thurſday, and Mr Liddel's, as the firſt private cauſe thereafter.

The Committee named by laſt Aſſembly, on the overtures anent the ſale of patronage during a vacancy, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1788. *Seſſ.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

The Procurator and Agent's accounts, *&c.* with the report of the Committee thereon produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Aſſembly proceeded to deliberate on the overtures from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, and from the Synod of Galloway, anent the ſale of patronage during a vacancy; and agreed, that it is at preſent unneceſſary to enter into the farther conſideration of them. At the ſame time, the Aſſembly repeated that ſtrong diſapprobation which the laſt Aſſembly expreſſed of Simoniacal practices, and declare their firm reſolution to exerciſe the powers with which the Conſtitution hath inveſted them, in preſerving the purity of the members of this Church; and diſmiſſed the overtures accordingly.

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The Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Galloway, Glasgow and Ayr, Lothian and Tweeddale, Fife, Angus and Mearns, and from the Presbytery of Dundee, for commemorating the Revolution in 1688. Unanimously approved of the overtures, and appointed a Committee to draw up an Act of Assembly to that effect, to be laid before the House to-morrow.

The overtures from the Synods of Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, and Angus and Mearns, relating to the Slave-trade, read and considered. After long reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly having considered the "above overtures, approve of the spirit thereof, and "think themselves called upon, as men, as Christians, "and as members of this National Church, to declare "their abhorrence of a traffic so contrary to the "rights of mankind, and the feelings of humanity, and "their earnest wish, that the wisdom and mercy of the "Legislature may be speedily exerted for the relief of "that unhappy portion of their fellow-creatures." Another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly should petition the Honourable House of Commons upon the subject of the Slave-trade. The House, after farther reasoning, unanimously adopted the first motion; and with respect to the last, the following state of a vote was put, *Petition* or *Not*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Not*; therefore the Assembly refused to petition the House of Commons on the above subject.

The Assembly having resumed the consideration of the motion of yesterday for an address to His Majesty, remitted the same to the Committee appointed to draw the Act for the thanksgiving in commemoration of the Revolution in 1688, to prepare said address, and to lay the same before the House as soon as possible.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to consider the cause of Dalton, to meet next day at eleven o'clock.

Agreed to take up the overture about the attestation to commissions from burghs on Saturday.

The Committee for bills to meet this evening, and the Committee on new applications, to-morrow.

Adjournment.

May

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May 29. 1788. *Seſſ.* 7*th*.

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in and read.

The report of the Committee of the whole Houſe, in the cauſe at the inſtance of Robert Henderſon of Cleughheads, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families in the pariſh of Dalton, againſt Dr William Bryden, miniſter of that pariſh, called for, given in and read. The General Aſſembly approved of the report, finding, That the firſt and third articles of the libel are not proven: That the ſecond and fifth articles have been abandoned by the proſecutors, as conſcious that they are unable to adduce the ſhadow of proof in ſupport of them: That it is not proven, under the fourth article, that Dr Bryden is an habitual curſer and ſwearer; and therefore the Aſſembly aſſoilzied the ſaid Dr Bryden from all thoſe articles of the libel: But, in regard it appeared in proof, and is acknowledged by Dr Bryden in his defences, that he has, upon ſeveral occaſions, in the heat of paſſion, uttered expreſſions irreverent towards Almighty God, and unbecoming the character of a clergyman, the Aſſembly appointed the Moderator to give a ſharp rebuke to Dr Bryden from the chair, for having taken the name of God in vain, and earneſtly to admoniſh him to guard againſt all ſuch expreſſions in time to come. This judgment intimated to the parties at the bar, and Dr Bryden rebuked and admoniſhed by the Moderator accordingly.

The report of the Committee appointed to prepare an act for a National Thankſgiving, in commemoration of the Revolution in 1688, given in, read and approved of, (*Vide* printed Acts); and the Agent for the Church authoriſed to cauſe 1000 copies of the act to be printed, and to tranſmit a copy thereof to every pariſh within the bounds of this Church, betwixt and the firſt of September next.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty, on the important events of laſt year, which prevented our being involved in war, and on the glorious Revolution in the year 1688, brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commiſſioner undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet to-morrow at half paſt ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May

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May 30. 1788. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee for overtures, on the returns to overtures tranſmitted by laſt Aſſembly, given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till next day.

The opinion by the Procurator on the overture from the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale, anent ſuppreſſion and annexation of benefices, given in and read. The Aſſembly, after reaſoning, agreed to adopt the ſaid opinion; therefore diſmiſſed the overture, as propoſing a remedy which is incompetent, and as unneceſſary; becauſe the General Aſſembly are confident, that all the Preſbyteries of this Church, when they are ſummoned as parties in any proceſs of annexation or ſuppreſſion, will attend carefully to the intereſts of religion within their bounds, and to the circumſtances of the caſe, before they expreſs their conſent.

The report of the Committee appointed to conſider the overtures reſpecting the taxes on horſes, and other taxes, given in and read. The Aſſembly approved of the ſaid report; and agreeable thereto, appointed a ſtanding Committee to watch over the intereſts of the Clergy in that matter, and to take what ſteps they may think proper for obtaining relief.

The report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſter's widows, *&c.* containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till a future diet: And upon a motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncrieff-Welwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

An appeal, tranſmitted to the Aſſembly at the inſtance of Mr Francis Liddell, miniſter of the goſpel at Orphir, from two interlocutors of the Synod of Orkney, the laſt whereof was a reſolution to ſuſpend the appellant *ſine die*, on account of alleged falſehood, prevarication, and inſult to their Judicatory; the Aſſembly, in reſpect of the irregularity of the procedure of the Synod of Orkney, reverſed the reſolution of Auguſt 1787, and found, that there is no evidence before this Aſſembly, of Mr Liddell's having been guilty of falſehood and prevarication; but, in reſpect that Mr Liddell, at the bar of the Aſſembly, has thrown out unſubſtantiated charges

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charges of crimes against ministers in the Synod of Orkney, and, upon various other occasions, (as appears from the papers on the table, and as admitted by himself), has thrown out the like unsubstantiated charges of crimes against a particular minister in said Synod, tending to injure his moral character, and to destroy his usefulness, the Assembly declared their high displeasure at such aspersions, and ordained the Moderator to rebuke the said Mr Liddell at the bar for the same; and appointed extracts of this sentence to be transmitted to the Presbyteries of Cairston and Kirkwall, and to the Synod of Orkney; and appoint them to record the said extracts in their respective books. The above judgment intimated to the parties, and Mr Liddell rebuked by the Moderator accordingly.

Agreed to take up the cause of Patrick Macgeorge in Braco next day.

Appointed the Committees for revising the Commission-record, and the Royal Bounty record, to be ready to give in their reports next day.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1788. *Sess.* 9*th*

Sederunt.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 503: 8: 0½ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 3: 7: 1$\frac{1}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hand.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging him of the sum of L. 195: 12: 10½ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 10: 12: 1½ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer to the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphingston Balfour, Stationer for the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Clerk appointed by the Committee on the Form of Process, and payment ordered.

The report of the Committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, together with the opinion of the Procurator and Committee thereon, given in, and read.

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The desire of the petition for Mr Robert Gun, Minister of Latheron, refused.

The process of suspension depending before the Court of Session, between Mr Andrew Brown, minister of Falkland, and his Heritors, respecting his manse, offices, and glebe, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The petition for Mr Robert Thomson, Minister of Killean, ordered to lie on the table, on account of the present situation of the funds; but the Assembly recommends the petitioner to future Assemblies, to grant him such aid from time to time, as the funds of the Church will permit, until he be completely reimbursed.

The case of Mr Alexander Stronach, Minister of Lochbroom, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to give their aid to the Minister in resisting any encroachment that may be made upon his glebe.

The petition for the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Presbytery of Kelso, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay Dr Brown, Minister of Newhills, the sum of L. 30 Sterling, after the debts already on the fund are paid.

The report of the Visitors of the Commission-book given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approven of, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approven of. The Assembly added thereto, Dr William Taylor, one of the Ministers of Glasgow, in place of the Moderator, and also added all those whose Commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Register, given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission, and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Glenelg ordered to be attested.

The Committee on the Scheme for erecting new Parishes in the Highlands and Islands renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers, with additions to the Committee.

The Committee on the Form of Process renewed with the former powers.

The

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The Overture anent attestations of Commissions from Burghs, to their Representatives to the General Assembly, considered; and after reasoning, the state of a vote was put, *Approve* or *Dismiss*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Approve*: The Assembly therefore approved of the overture, and ordained the same to be enacted accordingly. (*Vide* Printed Acts.) Against which several members dissented, and others who might adhere, were allowed to enter their dissents on Monday.

An appeal at the instance of Patrick Macgeorge in Braco, from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 17th October last, heard. The Assembly, without debate, unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod, found the exculpation relevant, and remitted to the Synod to allow a proof thereof.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1788. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced, read, and sustained.

Some members joined in the dissent from the decision of Saturday, on the overture anent attestations to Commissions from Burghs. The reasons of dissent were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Upon a motion, the Assembly resumed the consideration of the petition of Mr Robert Gun, minister of Latheron; and the deliverance of last Assembly upon the petition of Mr William Mitchell, minister of Tingwall, being read, the Assembly remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to take such steps in the process of augmentation at the instance of Mr Gun against his heritors, or in any other process of augmentation, resting upon grounds similar to those of Latheron and Tingwall, as may appear to them necessary and expedient for bringing the said processes to a final issue.

The overture concerning the licensing of Probationers, ordered to be retransmitted, with the addition of the following words, in Paragraph 6th, sect. 6th of the same, to be inserted after the words, "Provincial Synod," *viz.* "*Two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same.*" And the Assembly renewed the order on Presbyteries to send up their returns to next Assembly. (*Vide* Printed Acts).

The overture concerning ordination of elders, also ordered to be retransmitted. (*Vide* Printed Acts).

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The overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, anent Preachers or Ministers out of the bounds of this Church, dismissed *in hoc statu*.

A memorial and petition for the minister and elders of the Presbyterian congregation of the City of St John in the province of New Brunswick, read. The Assembly having considered said petition, approve of that attachment to the Church of Scotland, which is therein expressed, and of the pious zeal of the petitioners in promoting the interests of true religion; but regret that the state of the funds of the Church, and the circumstances of this country, do not permit the General Assembly to give them pecuniary aid. The Assembly do further empower their Moderator to express to the petitioners, the brotherly regard which this Church entertains for the Presbyterian congregation of the City of St John, in the province of New Brunswick, and to transmit to them a copy of this deliverance upon their petition.

A petition for Mr Richard Robertson, some time minister at Dalziel, craving aid, read. The Assembly remitted the same to the Procurator, with instructions to him to enquire into the facts, and endeavour to suggest some method of relief for the petitioner, to be laid before next Assembly.

The report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision for Ministers widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

Protestation admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly. (*Vide* Printed Acts.)

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and pronouncing the blessing.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 21st DAY OF MAY 1789.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF *SCOTLAND.*

M.DCC.LXXXIX.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 21st Day of MAY 1789, and concluded the 1st Day of JUNE in the said Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 21. 1789.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL CHURCH being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the KING's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and

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and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum-primum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventûs et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradûs seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto vigesimo-primo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.*

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In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud St James's, vigesimo-octavo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo octogesimo-nono, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo-nono.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascriptam.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The unwearied attention which you have shewn to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and the repeated proofs We have received of your duty and affection to Our Person and Government, have justly entitled you to those marks of approbation which We have so frequently given to you. You may rest assured, that the continuance of so laudable a conduct will always meet with Our Royal Protection; and we have great satisfaction, on the present occasion, in repeating to you Our determination to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all her just rights and privileges.

The harmony and unanimity which have constantly prevailed in your proceedings, are so essentially necessary to the dignity and efficacy of your deliberations, that We are persuaded you will carefully avoid all animosities and personal altercations, and that your Councils will be directed to the laudable purposes of enforcing due obedience to the Laws of Our most happy Constitution, and inculcating a conscientious discharge of those religious duties, which are inseparable from the welfare and happiness of Our People.

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We have again made choice of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to be Our Commissioner, to represent Our Person in the present Assembly, whose fidelity, zeal and attachment We have already experienced; and We do not entertain a doubt, that he will, by a steady adherence to the duties of his high and important office, promote those great ends which We have so much at heart, and render himself acceptable to you.

We have now only to express Our earnest hope, that you will proceed in the business before you, with that charity, brotherly love and unanimity, which We have recommended to you, and that you will bring this meeting to a happy conclusion. And so We bid you heartily farewell.——Given at Our Court at St James's, the 16th day of May 1789, in the 29th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

SYDNEY.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with becoming respect and gratitude.

The distinguished marks of Royal approbation which Your Majesty hath so frequently vouchsafed to give us, and which You condescend to repeat at this time, afford us the most sincere satisfaction, and are a most animating motive

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motive to induce us to perſevere in our unwearied attention to the great cauſe of Religion and Virtue, and to embrace every opportunity of teſtifying our duty and affection to Your Royal Perſon and Government. We receive, with the moſt lively gratitude, the gracious aſſurances contained in Your Majeſty's letter, that the continuance of ſo laudable a conduct will always meet with Your Royal protection: And we reſt with entire confidence in the repeated expreſſions of Your Majeſty's determination to ſupport and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed, in the full and free enjoyment of all her juſt rights and privileges.

We ſhall endeavour to maintain, in all our proceedings, that harmony and unanimity, which are ſo warmly recommended by Your Majeſty, which are ſo agreeable to the ſpirit of our Religion, and ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the dignity and efficacy of our deliberations: And it ſhall be our earneſt ſtudy to direct our Councils to the laudable purpoſes of enforcing due obedience to the Laws of our moſt happy Conſtitution, and inculcating, on the people committed to our care, a conſcientious diſcharge of thoſe religious duties, which are inſeparable from their welfare and happineſs.

Your Majeſty has given us a gracious pledge of Your favourable diſpoſition towards the Church of Scotland, by again appointing the EARL of LEVEN to be Your Commiſſioner, to repreſent Your Royal Perſon;—a Nobleman, whoſe fidelity and zeal towards Your Majeſty, and whoſe attachment to the intereſts of the Church of Scotland, are univerſally known; and who has formerly diſcharged the duties of the high and important office which he now fills, in ſuch a manner as to render him moſt acceptable to us.

Your Majeſty's Royal Donation of one thouſand pounds for propagating the Proteſtant Religion in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, we regard as a freſh proof of Your Majeſty's paternal attention to the true intereſts of all Your ſubjects. We feel ourſelves highly honoured in being made the inſtruments of fulfilling Your Majeſty's pious intention; and we ſhall ſtudy to make the moſt prudent and effectual application of the ſum with which we are entruſted.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt may protect Your Perſon, and proſper the Adminiſtration of Your Government; That he may bleſs the QUEEN, the PRINCE of WALES, and all the Royal Family;

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mily; and that after reigning long, with wiſdom and felicity, over a free, a grateful, and a happy people, You may enter thoſe bleſſed regions, where pious and virtuous Princes receive a Crown of Glory, are the earneſt prayer of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient, and moſt loyal ſubjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 23. 1789. GEORGE HILL, *Mod.*

IV.

An Addreſs by the General Aſſembly to the KING.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in National Aſſembly, embrace with joy, this firſt opportunity of approaching the Throne, with our moſt dutiful and ſincere congratulations upon Your Majeſty's recovery.

At a time when the inhabitants of the Britiſh empire were rejoicing under Your Majeſty's mild and auſpicious Government, in the bleſſings of peace, and the manifold advantages derived from the rank which Great Britain holds amongſt the nations of the earth, it pleaſed the Almighty, by the alarm which lately filled the hearts of Your Majeſty's faithful ſubjects, to teach them how entirely the proſperity of nations depends upon the will

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will of Heaven. The anxiety which they felt during the continuance of Your Majesty's illness, and the fervour of their wishes and prayers for Your recovery, were the spontaneous tribute of duty and affection to a Sovereign, who is endeared to His people, by those amiable virtues of which He is the Illustrious Pattern, as well as by that sacred regard to the Principles of a Free Constitution, which has uniformly distinguished His reign: And the unanimity and zeal which have marked the public demonstrations of joy, correspond to the sentiments of entire satisfaction and thankfulness with which a great and happy people, united in affectionate attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, receive from Heaven that inestimable gift by which the Almighty hath graciously vouchsafed to reward the national loyalty.

While we thus presume to speak in the name of the great body of the people of this country, who are under our care, with a confidence arising from a perfect knowledge of their sentiments, acquired by a constant intercourse with them in the discharge of our sacred functions, permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to assure You, that no class of Your Majesty's subjects were more deeply interested in the great event which has diffused such universal joy, than the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland. Entertaining no doubt of a continuance of the Royal Protection, under the Government of a Prince who has been the nursing Father of the Church, and being assured that our zealous endeavours to promote the interests of religion and virtue, will always receive countenance from that piety which ennobles the other graces of Your Majesty's character, we number the gracious answer that has been given to our prayers, amongst the many mercies which we are accustomed to trace in the history of this favoured land; and we lift our souls in thanksgiving to the God of our fathers, who, by restoring to us a King whom we love and honour as the faithful Guardian of our rights, hath afforded us a gracious pledge of their being transmitted unimpaired to latest posterity.

It shall be our constant study to cherish these sentiments of loyalty to Your Majesty, and of gratitude to Almighty God, which universally prevail: And the first wish of our hearts will be fulfilled, if a lasting sense of this great national blessing shall revive a spirit of religion, and by disposing the minds of men to learn those

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lessons of wisdom which it conveys, shall, through the blessing of God, prove instrumental in promoting that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

That Your Majesty may live long to be a blessing to Your Family, to behold the happiness of Your people, to enjoy the exalted satisfaction of requiting their affection, and to maintain the glory and prosperity of the British Empire: And that succeeding Princes of the House of Brunswick, formed upon Your example, may sway the British sceptre with the same justice and moderation, and may receive from their subjects the same homage and love, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 23. 1789. GEORGE HILL, *Mod.*

V.

An Address by the General Assembly to the QUEEN.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE His Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in National Assembly, presume to approach Your Majesty, with our humble congratulations upon an event most interesting to Your happiness, and most joyful to His Majesty's faithful subjects,— the recovery of our beloved Sovereign from His late alarming illness.

The most exalted station is not exempted from those pungent distresses which, in this mixed state, are often occasioned by the most delicate and amiable affections of the human heart. But the distress of Your Majesty was alleviated by those consolations which true Religion opens

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opens to a devout mind, in the hour of deep affliction: The God of Grace, whom You had honoured in the time of prosperity, while he tried the tenderness of Your nature, was pleased to support Your faith and patience by that strength with which he strengthens the souls of his servants; and the deliverance which he hath wrought for us, hath graciously rewarded that piety which adorns the Throne, by giving You the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Your Majesty witnessed, in the solicitude which all ranks expressed during the illness of the King, how truly He reigns in the hearts of His subjects: Your Majesty received, in the sympathy with which a great Nation took part in Your sorrows, and in the gratitude, respect and confidence with which they looked up to Your character, the recompence provided for those qualities by which greatness is rendered amiable; and Your Majesty has now the satisfaction of observing, that the demonstrations of joy for that national blessing, by which God hath wiped the tears from Your eyes, are mingled with expressions of the most affectionate interest in the happiness of a Queen, whose virtues have united all His Majesty's subjects in Her praise.

That Your Majesty may long be preserved to be a blessing to the King, to form the minds of Your Illustrious Offspring, to be the pattern of Your Sex, and the Protectress of Virtue and Religion; That God, in whom alone the families of the earth are blessed, may perpetuate Your domestic felicity; That You may taste the most exquisite delight which a mother's heart can know, in beholding the virtue and happiness of Your posterity; and that, after enjoying the largest measure of good which can crown the most excellent characters in this world, You may receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that Crown of Life which fadeth not away, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient, and most devoted servants,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 23. 1789.

GEORGE HILL, *Mod.*

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VI.

Act anent keeping the Doors of the Assembly-house shut, during the time of calling the Roll.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1789. *Sess.* 8.

THE General Assembly, considering, That whereas it is highly indecent and improper for any person to vote in any cause, who has not been present at the deliberations thereon, did, and hereby do unanimously order, that before the Roll begin to be called, the doors of the Assembly-house shall be shut, and shall not be opened, until the judgment of the Assembly be declared.

VII.

COMMISSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1789. *Sess.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St Andrews, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Hugh MacTavaish at Innerchaolan, Mr Alexander MacFarlane at Kilfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of

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of *Rothsay*, Mr John Home of Kilduff:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmorie in Arran, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Dugald MacDougal at Gigha and Cara, *Ministers*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Inveraray*, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Daniel Hyndman at Achoish, *Ministers*; Donald MacLauchlan, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inveraray*, Dr James Williamson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr James MacDiarmid at Weem, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr William MacRitchie at Clunie, Mr James Peter Bannerman at Cargill, *Ministers*; David Steuart, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, William Campbell, Esq; of Duneaves, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Perth*, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoull, Mr William Garvie at Aberdalgie, Mr Anthony Dow at Kilspindy, *Ministers*; Mr David Cathcart, advocate, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Perth*, John Caw, Esq; present Provost of Perth:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, Mr Robert Moodie at Clackmannan, *Ministers*; Mr John Erskine, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr John Baird at Dunning, *Ministers*; the Honourable Henry Erskine, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumblane*, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr William Osborn at Tillicoultry, *Ministers*; Mr William Richardson, Professor of Humanity, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Mr John Ferney at Dunfermline, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Culross*, Bailie John Panton of Culross:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverkeithing*, Mr William Peat, late merchant in Inverkeithing:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkcaldy, Mr James Wemyss at Burntisland, Mr George Muirhead at Dysart, *Ministers*; James Townsend Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Henry Beveridge, baxter in Kirkcaldy:—From the *Burgh* of *Kinghorn*, Andrew Hamilton, Esq;—From the *Burgh* of *Burntisland*, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *Dysart*, Mr Alexander Thomson, merchant, and late one of the Bailies of Dy-

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sart: — From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, Mr Thomas Miller at Abdie, *Ministers*; Mr Robert Collier of Craigfoodie, Mr Andrew Christie of Middlefield, *Ruling Elders*: — From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairney: — From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrews*, Dr James Gillespie, Principal of St Mary's College, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther-Wester, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Mr James Mitchell at Newburn, *Ministers*; Dr Adam Ferguson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, Dr Charles Wilson, Professor of Hebrew in St Mary's College, *Ruling Elders*: — From the *Burgh* of *St Andrews*, Dr Andrew Duncan, Physician in Edinburgh: — From the *Burgh* of *Pittenweem*, Mr John Cook of Newburn, Professor of Moral Philosophy in St Andrews: — From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Alexander Meldrum of Kincaple: — From the *Burgh* of *Anstruther-Wester*, Dr James Flint, Physician in St Andrews: — From the *Burgh* of *Kilrenny*, Mr William Dick, Rector of the Grammar School of St Andrews: — From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr John Halliburton at Kettins, Mr James Will at Ruthven, Mr James Johnston at Blairgowrie, *Ministers*; Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Masson at Dunichen, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, *Ministers*; Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate: — From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, *Ministers*; Mr William Bisset, merchant in Dundee, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, Mr George Gleig at Aberbrothock, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant in Canongate of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Burgh* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Charles Allan, Provost of Aberbrothock: — From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr Alexander Mollison at Montrose, Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esquire, younger of Edmonstone, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Mr George Imlach, clerk to the Signet: — From the *Burgh of Montrose*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate: — From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr John Hutcheon at Fettercsso, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, Mr James Scott at Benholm, *Ministers*; Professor John Playfair, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Burgh* of *Bervie*, Mr

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Mr James Brown, manufacturer in Inverbervie:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Alexander Gerard, Professor of Divinity in King's College, Mr James Hogg at Skene, Mr Alexander Henderson at Old Machar, *Ministers*; John Gordon, Esq; of Craig; James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Aberdeen*, Mr William Ritchie, merchant, and one of the present Bailies of Aberdeen:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine O'Neal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Robert Michie at Clunie, *Ministers*; William MacDonald, Esq; of Rineaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Alford*, Mr George Forbes at Leochel, Mr Alexander Mearns at Towie, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esquire, younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr James Miln at Ellon, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, *Ministers*; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keith-hall, Mr Alexander Cushny at Oyne, Mr Robert Shepherd at Daviot, *Ministers*; Mr John Dickson, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kintore*, Mr Andrew Cunningham in Dalmaloy:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverury*, John Clerk, Esq; of Eldin:—From the *Presbytery* of *Deer*, Mr William Taylor at New Deer, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, *Ministers*; Mr George Leslie, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Turreff*, Mr William Stewart at Turreff, Mr Alexander Johnston at Montwhiter, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr Alexander Miln at Boyndie, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Cullen*, Mr John Russel *junior*, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr James Scott at Gartly, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr James Thomson at Aberlour, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant of Hiltoun, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Anderson at Kinguissie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Robert Paterson at New Spynie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon,

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Gordon, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, Mr William Scott, banker in Edinburgh: —From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkilly, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, *Ministers*; Robert Urquhart, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, Mr Ludovick Grant *junior*, writer in Edinburgh: — From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, Mr Pryse Campbell at Ardersier, *Ministers*; Professor John Young, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*: —From the *Burgh* of *Nairn*, Alexander Lewis Grant, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr William Smith at Petty, Mr William MacBean at Moy, *Ministers*; Robert MacIntosh, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverness*, Simon Fraser, Esq; of Farraline:— From the *Presbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr James Monro of Cromarty, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Mathison at Kilmnir Easter, Mr Alexander MacAdam at Nigg, *Ministers*; Lord Ankerville, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldhame:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltearn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers*; John Spens-Munro, Esq; of Earnside, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dingwall*, Mr Kenneth MacKenzie *junior*, writer to the Signet:— From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*:— From the *Presbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Martin MacPherson at Slate, Mr Roderick MacLeod at Bracadale, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Lord MacDonald, *Ruling Elder*:— From the *Presbytery* of *Lewis*, Mr Alexander MacKay at Barvas, Mr John Fraser at Lochs, *Ministers*; Mr William Robertson, advocate, Procurator for the Church, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr Edmund MacQueen at Barra, Mr John MacLeod at Harris, *Ministers*; Alexander MacLeod, Esq; of Harris, *Ruling Elder*:— From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr Murdoch MacIver at Lochalsh, Mr Lauchlan MacKenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers*; Dr Alexander Hamilton, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers*; Professor Hugh MacLeod, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:— From the *Burgh* of *Dornoch*, Robert Bruce Æneas MacLeod of Cadboll, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Caithness*, Mr George MacKenzie at Olrick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Mr David Balfour, writer

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writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairston*, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, *Ministers*; John Clerk, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North-Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr James Izat at Westray and Papa Westray, *Ministers*; Alexander Cunningham, Esq; *junior*, of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Morison at Delting, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandsting, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott, South Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Mr William Simpson, Edinburgh, Mr William Paul, West Church, Mr William Bennet at Duddingston, *Ministers*; John Balfour, Esq; younger of Pilrig, Mr Alexander Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Mercer, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, John Greive, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, deacon-convener of the trades:—From the *University* of *Edinburgh*, Dr Thomas Hardy, Professor of Church History:—From the *Church* of *Campvere*, Mr Alexander Wilson at Campvere, *Minister*; Robert Allan, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenside, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr James Dobie at Mid-Calder, Mr James MacNair at Slamannan, *Ministers*; the Honourable Captain Sandilands, Thomas Hog, Esq; of Newliston, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Mr William Napier, one of the Magistrates of Linlithgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Captain James Taylor:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr James Finlayson at Symington, Mr William Watson at Biggar, *Ministers*; John Brown of Coultermains, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr David Anderson at Kirkurd, Mr Alexander Ker at Stobo, *Ministers*; the Lord Chief Baron, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr John Main at Newton, Dr Henry Greive at Dalkeith, Mr John Gourlay at Crichton, *Ministers*; Robert Dundas, Esq; Solicitor General, *Ruling Elder*:—

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From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr Matthew Murray at North-Berwick, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, *Ministers;* John Hamilton, Esq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, the Most Honourable George Marquis of Tweeddale: — From the *Burgh* of *North-Berwick*, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North-Berwick:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Ewing at Whittingham, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, *Ministers;* John Anderson, Esq; of Winterfield, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dunbar*, Mr James Reid, gardener in Dunbar:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunse*, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr Robert Home at Polwarth, *Ministers;* George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Presbytery* of *Churnside*, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Mr Thomas Miln at Ladykirk, *Ministers;* Matthew Sandilands-Dysart, Esq; writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, *Ministers;* the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, *Ministers;* Mr James Dickson, bookseller in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Jedburgh*, Mr John Wilde, advocate:— From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, *Ministers;* Sir James Pringle of Stitchill, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, Mr Alexander Allan, chief Magistrate of Lauder:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Simon Halyburton at Ashkirk, Mr James Hay at Roberton, *Ministers;* William Elliot younger of Borthwickbrae, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Roughead, late merchant in Edinburgh: —From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Alexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Mr William Scott at Gretney, *Ministers;* Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Mr Walter Scott, merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Lochmaben, Dr John Burgess at Kirkmichael, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick-Juxta, *Ministers;* Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr Andrew Yorstoun at Closeburn, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, *Ministers;* John MacMurdo, Esq; at Drumlanrig, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Sanqubar*, Robert

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Robert Whigham, Esq; Provost of Sanquhar:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr James Little at Colvend, *Ministers;* Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, Esq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Ferguſſon, Esq; of Craigdarroch:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kircudbright*, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, Mr Samuel Smith at Carsphairn, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, *Ministers;* John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan of Barley, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Wigton*, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorby, *Ministers;* Mr Elliot William Davidson, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar:—From the *Burgh* of *Whithorn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Peter Ferguſſon at Inch, *Ministers;* John Ross, Esq; of Balkail, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Dr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr Stephen Young at Bar, *Ministers;* John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; Thomas Kennedy of Dunure, Esq; *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Ferguſſon, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirny, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, *Ministers;* the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shualton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr James Steven at Lochwinnoch, Mr John Brown at Kilmalcolm, Mr Thomas Brown at Innerkip, *Ministers;* Mr Hugh Jamieson, manufacturer in Paisley, Mr John Orr, manufacturer there, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, Mr John Lockhart at Cambusnethen, *Ministers;* John Miller, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, *Ministers;* Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Dr Robert Findlay, Professor of Theology, Glasgow, Mr John MacCaul at Glasgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, *Ministers;* Mr Thomas Muir,

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Muir, advocate, Mr William Walker, merchant, Glasgow, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *City* of *Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—From the *University* of *Glasgow*, Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, George White, Esq; of Bankhead, Provost of Rutherglen:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr John Davidson at Old Kilpatrick, Mr David MacGibbon at Buchanan, Mr John Allan at Row, *Ministers;* the Right Honourable Ilay Campbell, Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Mr John Jardine, present Dean of Guild of Dumbarton:—And the General Assembly added thereto, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, in place of the Moderator; together with all those whose Commissions were rejected on account of informality, *viz.* For the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Archibald MacDonald, Esq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder:*—For the *Presbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Patrick MacArthur at Torosay, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Ministers;* Allan MacDougall of Galanach, Esq; *Ruling Elder:*—For *King's College*, *Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick MacLeod, Sub-principal:—For the *Burgh* of *Banff*, George Robinson, Esq; of Gask:—For the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr John MacDonell, Minister of the Gospel, *Ruling Elder:*—For the *Burgh* of *Wick*, Mr James Horn, writer to the Signet:—For the *Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Cannoby, Mr William Little at Wester-Kirk, *Ministers;* Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—For the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Ephraim Lockhart of Leith:—To BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every

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every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to ap-

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ply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are here-

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by appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.

VIII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1789. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity of St Andrews, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Hugh MacTavaiſh at Innerchaolan, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmorie, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr James MacDiarmid at Weem, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoull, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Chriſtopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinroſs, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkaldie, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Principal Gilleſpie, St Andrews, Mr James Forreſter at Anſtruther Weſter, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr Thomas Maſon at Dunnichen, Mr John Gibſon at Mains, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr John Hutcheon at Fetteresſo, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Profeſſor Gerard, Aberdeen, Mr William Morrice at Kincardin-oneal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr George Forbes at Lochel, Mr Alexander Mearns at Towie, Mr James

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James Milne at Ellon, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keithhall, Mr William Taylor at New Deer, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Stewart at Turreff, Mr Robert Ogilvy at Ordiquhill, Mr James Scott at Gartly, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr Robert Paterſon at New Spynie, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkelly, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, Mr William Smith at Petty, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr John Mathiſon at Kilmuir Eaſter, Mr Harry Robertſon at Kiltearn, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, Mr Martin Macpherſon at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, Mr Murdoch MacIver at Lochalſh, Mr Walter Roſs at Clyne, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Anderſon at Stronſay, Mr John Moriſon at Delting, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenſide, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr David Anderſon at Kirkurd, Dr John Main at Newton, Dr Henry Greive at Dalkeith, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr John Ewing at Whittingham, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouſton, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Mr Simon Halyburton at Aſhkirk, Mr William Scott at Gretney, Dr John Burgeſs at Kirkmichael, Mr Andrew Yorſtoun at Cloſeburn, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr John Gilleſpie at Kells, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr John Ramſay at Kirkmichael, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirnie, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr John Riſk at Dalſelf, Mr Thomas Linning at Leſmahago, Profeſſor Robert Findlay, Glaſgow, Principal Davidſon, Glaſgow, Mr John Davidſon at Old Kirkpatrick, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Miniſters*; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Mr John Home of Kilduff, William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq; Donald MacLauchlan, Eſq; Profeſſor James Williamſon, Glaſgow, David Stewart, Eſq; Banker, William Campbell, Eſq; of Duneaves, Mr David Cathcart, Advocate, Mr Archibald Fletcher, Writer to the Signet, Mr John Erſkine, Advocate, The Honourable Henry Erſkine, Profeſſor William Richardſon, Glaſgow, Sir Charles Preſton of Valleyfield, Alexander Wight, Eſq; Advocate, Major John Melvill of Cairney, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, Profeſſor John Cook, St Andrews, Charles Hope, Eſq; Advocate, Mr George Imlach,

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lach, Writer to the Signet, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate, Professor John Playfair, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, William Macdonald, Esq; of Raneaton, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, Mr John Dickson, Advocate, John Clerk, Esq; of Eldin, Mr George Leslie, Merchant, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Forbes, Writer, Mr George Andrew, Writer, Mr John Russell, *junior*, Writer, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant of Hilton, Esq; Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, Writer, Mr William Scott, Banker, Edinburgh, Robert Urquhart, Esq; Advocate, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, Writer, Robert MacIntosh, Esq; Advocate, Simon Fraser, Esq; of Faraline, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, *junior*, Writer, Lord Macdonald, The Procurator, Dr Alexander Hamilton, Edinburgh, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, Robert Bruce, Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Esq; Mr David Balfour, Writer, Mr Alexander Youngson, Writer, Mr Malcolm Laing, Advocate, Alexander Cunningham, Esq; *junior*, of Hyndhope, John Clerk, Esq; Advocate, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, John Balfour, Esq; younger of Pilrig, Mr Alexander Bonar, Banker, Mr Archibald Mercer, Merchant, John Grieve, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Orlando Hart, Robert Allan, Esq; Banker, The Honourable Captain Sandilands, John Brown of Coultermains, Esq; The Lord Chief Baron, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; The Solicitor General, The Marquis of Tweeddale, George Buchan of Kello, Esq; Matthew Sandilands Dysart, Esq; The Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr James Dickson, Bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr John Wilde, Advocate, Sir James Pringle of Stitchill, Mr Walter Scott, Merchant, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; Mr Archibald Douglas, Writer, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; of Craigdarroch, Horatius Cannan of Barley, Esq; George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar, John Bushby, Esq; Mr Thomas Smith, Writer, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, The Honourable Patrick Boyle, John Miller, Esq; Advocate, Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, Mr Thomas Muir, Advocate, Archibald Campbell, Esq; Advocate, The Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his

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Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and

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and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall

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ſhall be miniſters; and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty, is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their

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answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

IX.

Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers, re-transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a certificate from the minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several

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manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, *two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same*, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

See Abridgment, Sess. *ult.* 1788.

VII. The General Assembly do likewise appoint Presbyteries to observe the several regulations which are prescribed

prescribed in the immediately preceding section of this act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, The Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1st*, Catechetic Trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; *2d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3d*, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; *4th*, A Homily in English; *5th*, An Exercise and Addition; *6th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7th*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

XI. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding

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ABRIDGMENT

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held in the year 1789, which are not printed at full length.

Thursday, May 21. 1789. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, Principal of the College of Glasgow, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Archibald Davidson, the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St. Andrews, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The Moderator represented to the Assembly, that it had been the usual practice, after the choice of a Moderator, to turn to the Throne, to receive any communications, which his Grace the COMMISSIONER had to deliver to them from their most Gracious SOVEREIGN: But as the office of Principal Clerk was vacant, by the death of the Reverend Dr JOHN DRYSDALE, and at the disposal of the Assembly, he submitted to the House, whether they should, in the first place, fill up that vacancy.—After reasoning at considerable length on this subject, a motion was made and seconded,—"That the General Assembly "do now proceed to elect a Principal Clerk of the Assembly "in the room of the late Dr John Drysdale."—To which motion the following amendment was proposed and seconded;—"Under this *proviso*, that it shall be competent to any member of this Assembly to demand a Scrutiny or Investigation "of the legality of the votes, or any of them, given for any of "the candidates:—That for this purpose, the names of all the "members voting, and for whom they vote, shall be taken "down;—That the Investigation shall be committed to the "Committee for revising Commissions: That the Assembly "shall, at a subsequent diet, decide on their report; and that "the election shall then be declared to have fallen on the person having the majority of legal votes on the roll, as purged "by the Assembly."—The state of the vote was put, *Amendment*, or *Not*;—It being understood, that if it carried *Amendment*, the Assembly should immediately proceed to the election of a Principal Clerk, under the *proviso* contained in the Amendment: And if it carried *Not*, that the Amendment should be rejected:—And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Amendment*.—Therefore the Assembly agreed to proceed

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ceed immediately to the election of a Principal Clerk, under the *proviso* contained in the above Amendment.—Against which decision the Solicitor General protested.—Then the Reverend Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister of the Gospel at Inveresk, and Mr ANDREW DALZEL, Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, being proposed as candidates for the office of Principal Clerk;—The vote was put, *Dr Carlyle*, or *Mr Dalzel:* And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Dr Carlyle*.—The Moderator being desired to declare in what manner he would give his casting vote, if, upon a Scrutiny, there should appear an equality of votes, declared, That "he does now give his vote for Dr Carlyle."—Thereupon the Honourable Henry Erskine demanded a scrutiny in behalf of Mr Dalzel; and Principal Davidson demanded the same in behalf of Dr Carlyle: Both which demands were granted by the Assembly: And the Roll of the Assembly, being marked agreeable to the Amendment, was sealed with the seals of the Moderator, Principal MacCormick, and Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood; these two Reverend Gentlemen having been previously requested to assist the Sub-Clerk by marking the Roll while the members voted; and the said Roll so sealed, was delivered to the Moderator.—The Assembly therefore did, *with and under the* proviso *above mentioned*, elect, constitute and appoint Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister of Inveresk, to be Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, and Commissions thereof, with power to him to exerce that office, and enjoy the Emoluments, Profits and Privileges thereof, as fully and freely, as Dr John Drysdale, or any other his predecessors enjoyed the same: And Dr Carlyle compearing, the oath *de fideli administratione officii* was administered to him; and he took his place as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly.

The KING'S Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN to represent His Majesty's Royal Person read, and ordered to be recorded.

See Printed Acts, N°. I.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

and N°. II.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

The same Committee appointed to draw up a congratulatory address to His Majesty on His recovery from His late Illness: And also an address to the Queen, on the same happy event.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof; naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

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A Committee for overtures named.
A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

Friday, May 22. 1789. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.
A diet ſpent in Prayer.
Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718 for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.
Miniſters named to preach before his Grace, the King's Commiſſioner.
The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at 7 o'clock in the uſual places.
Adjournment.

Saturday, May 23. 1789. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.
A new Commiſſion produced.
Several members adhered to the proteſt taken on Thurſday by the Solicitor General in the queſtion relative to the Clerkſhip.
The draught of an Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty. See Printed Acts, Nº. III.
The draught of an Addreſs to the KING on His recovery from his late Illneſs, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty. Nº. IV.
The draught of an Addreſs to the QUEEN on the ſame happy event, being likewiſe brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to her Majeſty. and Nº. V.
The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced and read.
A Committee named to reviſe the regiſter of the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly.
A Committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.
A Committee named to audit and reviſe the accounts of the procurator and agent for the Church, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.
The Aſſembly agreed to conſider the petition of Mr James Lawſon, preacher, on Monday.
The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral members, any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Aſſembly; and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhal be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

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The Committee for overtures alſo appointed to meet on Monday next at twelve o'clock.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 25. 1789. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Petition for Mr John Anderſon, together with inſtructions from the Preſbytery of North-Iſles, read, and remitted to the Committee for conſidering new applications.

Overtures anent the augmentations of ſtipend, and overtures on the horſe-tax, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read, and all petitions relating to the public money, referred to the Committee on public accounts.

Committees appointed to reviſe the Synod-books of Angus and Mearns, and of Lothian and Tweeddale.

None of the other Synod-books being brought up, appointed that they be brought up to next Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the petition for Mr James Lawſon; which being read, and Mr Lawſon heard in ſupport thereof, the Aſſembly without debate, diſmiſſed the ſaid petition.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at eight o'clock, and to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

Tueſday, May 26. 1789. *Seſſ.* 5.

Sederunt.

A new commiſſion produced, read, and ſuſtained.

The Synod-book of Dumfries produced, and a Committee named to reviſe the ſame.

The report of the Committee for overtures was called for—And as the buſineſs therein contained, reſpected the intereſt of Dr Carlyle, the Aſſembly allowed him to retire, and appointed Mr William Murray *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, to officiate as clerk, during the Aſſembly's conſidering this report.

The Aſſembly then conſidered the ſaid report, article by article as follows.

It was objected to the commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Kintyre, " 1*mo*, That Mr James Ferrier, who was elected by the " Preſbytery as their elder to the General Aſſembly, upon the " 25*th* of March, was not an ordained elder of this Church; " and when Mr Ferrier was informed that he was elected, he " wrote to one or other of the members of the Preſbytery, in- " forming them, that he was not an elder, and finding fault " with them for having elected him. In conſequence of Mr " Ferrier's letter, the Preſbytery, upon the 15*th* of April, elect- " ed Mr MacDonald of Sanda in place of Mr Ferrier, and at- " teſted him to be *in all reſpects qualified in the ſame manner with* " *Mr Ferrier*; therefore if the atteſtation is to be founded on, " it

"it amounts to nothing more, than that Mr MacDonald was "not an Elder at all; and that Mr Ferrier not being an Elder, "his election was null and void, consequently no substitution "could follow on his resignation: Mr MacDonald's election "therefore is either a null substitution, or a new election with-"in the forty days.—And 2*do*, That the substitution is not "signed on the first page." After reasoning on the first objection at great length, the following motion was made and seconded, "That when a Presbytery of this Church elects a "Commissioner who is not an Elder, and afterwards, within "forty days of the meeting of the General Assembly, on the "resignation of the person so elected, elects another, by the "form of substitution prescribed by the laws of the Church, "such substitution is null and void; and that therefore it is "competent, in support of the objection, against the right of "Mr MacDonald of Sanda to sit and vote as a member of this "House, to prove by the testimony of Mr MacDonald himself, "and other *parole* evidence, that Mr James Ferrier, the Com-"missioner first elected by the Presbytery of Kintyre, was not "an Elder of the Church." Another motion was made and se-"conded, "To find, in respect that no objection is made to the "qualification of Mr MacDonald as an Elder, it is inexpedi-"ent to enter into the consideration of the question respecting "Mr Ferrier in its present situation, whereby the Court would "go into extraneous evidence, and he might be deprived of "his state, who is no member of this Assembly, nor a party "to their procedure, and whereby an oblique censure will be "inflicted on a Presbytery, who are not a party before this "House." The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *First* or *Second* motion: And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *first* motion: Therefore the Assembly decided in terms of the above-mentioned first motion accordingly. In consequence of which decision, the Moderator, by direction of the House, put this question to Mr MacDonald of Sanda, "Whether it was consistent with his knowledge, that Mr "James Ferrier, the Commissioner first elected by the Presby-"tery of Kintyre, was not an Elder of this Church, at the time "of his election:" To which Mr MacDonald made the following answer:—"Finding a precedent likely to be establish-"ed of vast importance to the Church of Scotland, I desire to "be heard by Counsel, as interested in the consequences, whe-"ther I am bound to answer this question or not."—The Assembly, after reasoning upon this answer, agreed to delay the consideration of the request made by Mr MacDonald till tomorrow.—Then the Assembly considered the second objection to this Commission, *viz.* "That the substitution is not signed "on the first page:"—And without debate, unanimously repelled the same.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Inveraray, "That the Elder is not sufficiently designed." The Assembly, without debate, unanimously repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

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It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Mull, "That the Commiſſion is null and void, the election having "been made *within the forty days.*"—After long reaſoning, a motion was made and ſeconded, "That the Aſſembly ſuſtain "the objection, and ordain the Commiſſioners names to be "expunged from the roll."—Another motion was made and ſeconded, "That the Aſſembly repel the objection to the "Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Mull, bearing date the "5th of May current, in reſpect of the exception in the law, "in favour of the Northern and Weſtern Iſles, and of the "uſage founded thereon."—The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *First* or *Second* motion:—And the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *firſt* motion. Therefore the Aſſembly ſuſtained the objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Mull, and ordained the Commiſſioners names to be expunged from the roll.—Upon which Mr George Ferguſſon diſſented, and proteſted.

See Act 6. Aſſ. 1698; Act 7. Aſſ. 1738; and p. 25. Aſſ. 1759.

The Aſſembly agreed to reſolve themſelves into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to proceed farther on the report of the Committee for overtures, to meet to-morrow at Eleven o'clock.

Adjournment.

Wedneſday, May 27. 1789. *Seſſ. 6th.*

Sederunt.

The Aſſembly having called for the report of the Committee of the whole Houſe, for conſidering the report of the Committee for overtures, the ſame was given in and read: And it having been objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Stirling, "That the date of the reſolution to elect is not ſufficiently explicit:"—To the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Auchterarder, "That the date of the reſolution to elect is not "ſufficiently explicit, and that the firſt page of the atteſtation "is not ſigned:"—To the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Dumblane, "That the word *of* is ſubſtituted twice in place of "*at*, in the deſignation of the Miniſters:"—To the Commiſſion from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, "That the Elder is diffe-"rently named in the Commiſſion, and in the atteſtation:"—To the Commiſſion from the burgh of Kinghorn, "That the "date of the Kirk-ſeſſion's atteſtation is in a different hand "and ink from the body of it:"—And to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Forfar, "That, after the words *Charles* "*Hope, Eſq; Advocate*, the words *Ruling Elder* are want-"ing:"—The Committee reported, "That all the ſaid ob-"jections ſeverally ought to be repelled, and the Commiſ-"ſion ſuſtained." And it having been objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock, "That Mr "George Gleig is returned as one of the repreſentatives, though "he is in fact not even a Miniſter of the Church of Scotland, "much leſs Miniſter of Aberbrothock, ſince his ordination and "admiſſion is in the face of the Act 5. Seſſ. 9. Aſſ. 1732."—After reaſoning at great length, a motion was made, "That "the conſideration of the objection to Mr Gleig's Commiſſion, "be

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" be poſtponed until a judgment be given on the appeal, at " the inſtance of Charles Allan, Eſq; relative to Mr Gleig's " ſettlement:" And another motion being made, to proceed; this ſtate of the vote was agreed to, *Proceed* or *Delay*. And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Delay*; therefore the Committee reported to the General Aſſembly in terms of the ſaid firſt motion accordingly.

The General Aſſembly having conſidered the above-mentioned report of the Committee of the whole Houſe, did unanimouſly approve thereof, and order accordingly.

The General Aſſembly, agreeable to the reſolution of yeſterday, proceeded to conſider the requeſt of Mr MacDonald of Sanda, *viz.* " That he deſired to be heard by Counſel, as intereſted in " the conſequences, whether he was bound to anſwer the " queſtion or not," and Mr MacDonald being called, compeared, and ſaid, " I am not bound, and therefore decline an- " ſwering the queſtion put by the Venerable Aſſembly."—A motion was thereafter made and ſeconded, " That Mr Mac- " Donald having declined to anſwer the queſtion put by the " General Aſſembly, he muſt be held as confeſſed, and there- " fore that his election, proceeding upon the ſubſtitution to Mr " Ferrier, was null and void, and that his name ſhall be ex- " punged from the Aſſembly Roll."—Another motion was made and ſeconded, " That, as the reſolution of the Aſſembly " finds it competent to prove that Mr Ferrier is not an Elder, " by the teſtimony of Mr MacDonald, and other *parole* evi- " dence, and as Mr MacDonald has declined anſwering the " queſtion put to him, recourſe ſhall be had to other *parole* " evidence."—The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *Firſt* or *Second* motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Firſt* motion: Therefore the Aſſembly held Mr MacDonald as confeſſed, he having declined to anſwer the queſtion put to him by the Aſſembly yeſterday; and having found that his election, proceeding upon the ſubſtitution to Mr Ferrier, was null and void, they did therefore expunge Mr MacDonald's name from the Aſſembly Roll.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Aberbrothock, " That the Kirk-ſeſſion's atteſtation is invalid, as ſign- " ed by Mr George Gleig, who is not a Miniſter of the Church " of Scotland, much leſs Miniſter at Aberbrothock."—The Aſſembly delayed the conſideration thereof, until the objections to Mr Gleig's own Commiſſion are diſcuſſed.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Bervie, 1*mo*, " That the atteſtation of the Preſbytery, though written on " two pages, is not ſigned on the firſt page.—2*do*, The atteſ- " tation of the Kirk-ſeſſion, is dated at *Bervie*, inſtead of *In-* " *verbervie*."—The Aſſembly repelled the objections, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

An objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Aberdeen, being the ſame with that made to the Preſbytery of Stirling, the Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

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It was objected to the Commiſſion from the King's College, Aberdeen, 1*mo*, " That the Commiſſion is null, as wanting the eſſen- " tial words, *in order to elect their repreſentative to the enſuing* " *Aſſembly*. 2*do*, That it is liable to the ſame objection made " to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Stirling." This ſecond objection, the Aſſembly unanimouſly repelled: But, with reſpect to the firſt, a motion was made and ſeconded, " That " the ſaid firſt objection to the Commiſſion be ſuſtained, the " Commiſſion rejected, and the Commiſſioner's name expun- " ged from the Roll."—Another motion was made and ſeconded, " That the Aſſembly repel the objection to the Com- " miſſion from King's College, Aberdeen, in reſpect that the " words omitted are immaterial, being ſufficiently ſupplied by " the whole tenor of the Commiſſion, when fairly conſtrued." The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *Expunge* or *Not*, and the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Expunge*. Therefore the Aſſembly ſuſtained the ſaid firſt objection to the Commiſſion from the King's College of Aberdeen, rejected the Commiſſion, and ordained the Commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the Roll.

A motion was made, " That the Aſſembly do adjourn, and im- " mediately reſolve themſelves into a Committee of the whole " Houſe, and proceed farther in the buſineſs;"—which motion being objected to, and a propoſal made, " That they " ſhall proceed no farther in the buſineſs to-night,"—The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *Adjourn* or *Not*:—It being underſtood, that, if it carry *Adjourn*, the Aſſembly ſhall immediately adjourn; and if it carry *Not*, that the Aſſembly ſhall adjourn, and immediately be reſolved into a Committee of the whole Houſe, and proceed in the buſineſs: And the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Not*. Therefore the Aſſembly came to the reſolution to adjourn, and to reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe, and immediately to proceed farther in the buſineſs.—Upon which Mr John Buſhby and Dr Henry Greive diſſented, and proteſted.

Adjournment.

Thurſday, May 28. 1789. *Seſſ.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the diſſent and proteſt, taken on Tueſday by Mr George Fergusſon, in the caſe of the Deciſion reſpecting the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Mull.

The accounts of the Procurator, Agent, Printer, and Stationer, produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr Solicitor General ſtated, That he was authoriſed on the part of Dr Carlyle, and thoſe friends who ſupported him, to inform the Aſſembly, that having come to the reſolution of abandoning the conteſt for the Clerkſhip, ſo far as it could be decided under the ſcrutiny by the Aſſembly, they meant not to maintain any farther argument on the remaining part of the report, but would content themſelves with barely entering their diſ-

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ſent from, and proteſt againſt ſuch deciſions as the Houſe might give, in which they could not acquieſce.

It was moved, and unanimouſly agreed to, " That the thanks of " the Houſe be given from the chair, with the moſt profound " reſpect, to His Grace the Lord High Commiſſioner, for His " patient and polite attention during the long and fatiguing " diets of this Aſſembly :" And the Moderator having accordingly addreſſed the Throne, His Grace was pleaſed to make a moſt gracious reply.

It was moved, and unanimouſly agreed to, " That the thanks of " the Houſe ſhall be given to the Moderator, for his moſt im- " partial, dignified and able conduct, in a very delicate and " uncommon ſituation, during all the preceding diets of this " Venerable Aſſembly :" And he having left the chair, the ſincere and hearty thanks of the Houſe were accordingly given to him by the late Moderator.

The report of the Committee of the whole Houſe, for farther conſidering the report of the Committee for overtures, being called for, and produced, the Aſſembly agreed to conſider the ſame, article by article, as follows.

Objection made to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Alford, " The ſame with that to the Commiſſion from the " Preſbytery of Stirling, and the objection not removed, by the " interlineation of the word *laſt*."—The Committee reported, " That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

Objection made ſeverally to the Commiſſions from the Preſbyteries of Ellon and Deer, " The ſame as that to the Commiſ- " ſion from the Preſbytery of Stirling." The Committee reported, " That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſions.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Turreff, " That the firſt page of the Preſbytery's atteſtation is not " ſigned."—The Committee reported, " That the objection " ought to be repelled." The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

The Committee unanimouſly reported, " That the Commiſſion " from the burgh of Banff, ought to be rejected, as it is nei- " ther atteſted by the Kirk-ſeſſion nor Preſbytery, and the " election made two days before the time."—The Aſſembly unanimouſly approved of the report, rejected the Commiſſion, and ordained the Commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Strathbogie, " That Mr *Baron Gordon* is not a ſufficient deſignation " for the Elder." The Committee, without a vote, reported " that the objection ought to be repelled." The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and

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ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr George Andrew diſſented, and proteſted.

Objection made ſeverally to the Commiſſions from the Preſbyteries of Aberlour and Abernethy, " The ſame as that to the " Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Stirling." The Committee reported, " That the objection ought to be repel- " led."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſions.

Objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Elgin, 1*mo*, " The ſame as that to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of " Stirling; and, 2*do*, It has Mr William Gordon *as* Miniſter *as* " Urquhart." The Committee reported, " That the objections " ought to be repelled." The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objections accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Nairn, 1*mo*, " That the word *Elder* is, on the margin of the ſubſtitu- " tion, not ſide-ſcribed, and in a different hand, ſeemingly put " in *ex poſt facto*, which word being material, ſeems to vitiate " the Commiſſion. And, 2*do*, The ſubſtitute, Profeſſor Young, " is not deſigned either as an Elder, or Ruling Elder, nor " does he receive ſuch deſignation in the ſubſequent proceed- " ings of the Preſbytery, or in any other part of the paper, " which he has produced as a Commiſſion."—The Committee reported, without a vote, " That the objections ought to be re- " pelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objections accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Nairn, " That there is no ſuch perſon as *Alexander Lewis Grant, Eſq*; " and that at any rate thoſe names, in that order, do not be- " long to the gentleman who claimed his ſeat in the Aſſembly, " in virtue of the Commiſſion; and farther, the word *Eſquire*, " added to the name of an individual, is not a ſufficient deſig- " nation to a gentleman."—The Committee reported, " That " the objection ought to be repelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Chanonry, reſpecting the Elder, " That there is no ſuch perſon as " *Convener John Lindſay in Edinburgh.*" The Committee reported, " That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr Solicitor General diſſented, and proteſted.

The objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Dingwall, being " The ſame as that to the Commiſſion from the " Preſbytery of Stirling" ;—The Committee reported, " That " the objection ought to be repelled."—The Aſſembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Abertarph, " That the Elder appointed by the Commiſſion is diſ- " qualified

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"qualified from being a member of Assembly, as being a *Missionary* on the Royal Bounty, and designed *Minister of the Gospel.*"—The Committee, without a vote, reported, "That "the objection ought to be sustained, and the Commissioner's "name expunged from the roll."—The Assembly, without a vote, approved of the report, sustained the objection, and ordained the Elder's name to be expunged from the roll.—Upon which Dr Gerard and Dr Greive dissented, and protested.

See Act 4. Ass. 1753.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Sky, "That there is no such person as *Alexander Lord MacDonald*, "who is elected Elder."—The Committee reported, "That the "objection ought to be repelled." The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lewis, 1*mo*, "The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling:—And, "2*do*, That there was no quorum of the Presbytery present "at the diet of election, nor were the members duly summoned to the meeting, which was *pro re nata.*"—The Committee unanimously reported, "That the first objection ought "to be repelled:" And without a vote, reported, "That the "second objection ought to be repelled, in respect no proof is "offered in support thereof."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which John Clerk, Esq; Advocate, dissented, and protested.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Uist, "The "same as to that from the Presbytery of Dumblane, viz. The "insertion of the word *of* for *at.*" The Committee reported, "That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Dornoch and Caithness, "The same as to that from "the Presbytery of Stirling."—The Committee reported, "That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

With respect to the Commission from the burgh of Wick, the Committee reported, "That the Commission ought to be re-"jected, the election being made too soon."—The Assembly approved of the report, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the Roll.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Cairston, 1*mo*, The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling:—"And 2*do*, that it appears to have been extracted with a "blank left for the names of the members said to be elected."—The Committee reported, "That the objections ought to "be repelled."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.

The Assembly then proceeded to consider, article by article, the remaining part of the report of the Committee for overtures, upon

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upon the Commiſſions remitted to them by the Committee for reviſing Commiſſions, as follows:

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Zetland, "That there are no words which, by any conſtruction, "import a reſignation on the part of Mr William Jack, in "whoſe room Mr Patrick Barclay is ſaid to have been elec-"ted, but a mere aſſumption by the Preſbytery, founded upon "no evidence, ſo far as appears, or is now competent to be pro-"duced; beſides, it is believed, that Mr William Jack is now "in Edinburgh, and has been for ſome time, ſo that the pre-"tended reaſon, is contradicted by the fact. This is an ob-"jection perfectly diſtinct from thoſe caſes where criticiſms "may have been made upon the act of the party himſelf; be-"ſides, the words of the pretended reſignation, are contrary "to the printed form."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr Charles Hope diſſented, and proteſted, and Mr Solicitor General and Mr Iſaac Grant adhered.

Objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, "1*mo*, The ſame as to that from the Preſbytery of Stirling.—"2*do*, There is a material word in the Preſbytery's atteſtation, "which is illegible in the place where, by the printed form, "there ought to have been an approbation of the Commiſſion. "—3*tio*, The whole of the Miniſters are improperly deſigned, "in oppoſition to the printed form, and the word *in* improperly "ſubſtituted for the word *at*, without authority.—4*to*, One "Reverend gentleman is called, *Mr William Paul Miniſter in "Weſt Church*; this may apply to the Weſt Church of Glaſ-"gow, or of any other place, though without the bounds of "the Preſbytery of Edinburgh."—The Aſſembly repelled the objections, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr George Ferguſſon diſſented, and proteſted.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the City of Edinburgh, "That the *pro re nata* meeting of Preſbytery, which atteſted "Mr Greive's Commiſſion, was called irregularly *pro re nata*, "ſeveral conſtituent members thereof not having been cited "at all."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr John Clerk, and Mr Wilde, Advocates, diſſented, and proteſted.

Objection to the Commiſſion from the Univerſity of Edinburgh, "The ſame as to that from the Preſbytery of Stirling."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Church of Campvere, "—That the Commiſſion makes no mention of the Church of "Scotland, ſo that, bearing date beyond ſeas, the Commiſſion "does not ſhow, that the Aſſembly to which the member was "ſent, was that of the Church of Scotland or not."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.—Upon which Mr Buſhby diſſented, and proteſted.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Linlithgow, "That the Elder is imperfectly deſigned."—The Aſſembly

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Upon a motion from the Bar, the Assembly appointed the Committee for Bills, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Upon a motion, the Assembly authorised the Procurator to pay to Mrs Drysdale, relict of the late Reverend Dr John Drysdale, Principal Clerk of Assembly, what salary was due to him at the time of his death, and also the salary that was due to that office, up to the term of Whitsunday last 1789, upon Mrs Drysdale's receipt alone.

An appeal at the instance of Charles Allan, Esq; Provost of Aberbrothock and others, from a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, of the 28th of October last, dismissing an appeal taken by them, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, on the 31st of July preceding, whereby the Presbytery resolved to take Mr George Gleig, Preacher of the Gospel, upon trials, in order to his ordination as Minister of Aberbrothock, and to proceed to his settlement with all convenient speed; as also a petition and complaint for them, against the proceedings of the above Presbytery, on the 29th of October and 11th of December last, resolving to ordain, and afterwards ordaining Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock, in the face of the appeal, heard.—After long reasoning, it was moved and seconded, "That the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, and Mr "Gleig, are not parties in this Court, in any of the proceed-"ings of the Presbytery, subsequent to the meeting of the "Synod of Angus and Mearns, in October last."—To which the following amendment was moved and seconded: "But "that it shall, nevertheless, be competent to the Assembly "to judge of the validity or invalidity of the admission of Mr "Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock."—This state of the vote was then agreed to, *Amendment* or *Not*,—It being understood, if it carry *Amendment*, that the said Presbytery and Mr Gleig are parties, and that the amendment shall be adopted; and if it carry *Not*, that it shall not be competent to proceed to judge of the validity or invalidity of the admission of Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock;—and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Amendment*; therefore, the Assembly found, "That the Presbytery of Aber-"brothock and Mr Gleig are parties in this Court, in the pro-"ceedings of the Presbytery, subsequent to the meeting of the "Synod of Angus and Mearns, in October last, and that it is "competent to the Assembly to judge of the validity or invali-"dity of the admission of Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbro-"thock." Parties being thereafter removed, the Assembly proceeded to deliberate on the merits of Mr Gleig's ordination and settlement,—and after long reasoning, a motion was made and seconded: "To find and declare, That the settlement and "ordination of Mr Gleig, as Minister of the Church and Pa-"rish of Aberbrothock, was and is void and null, having been "made by the Presbytery, in pursuance of a sentence of the "Synod, in the face of an appeal competently taken from "the said sentence of the Synod, by which appeal, the effect "of the Synod's sentence was suspended, till the appeal was "either fallen from or discussed; declaring, nevertheless, That

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"the ordination of the ſaid Mr Gleig, as a Miniſter of the "Goſpel, is not by this judgment brought into queſtion."—Another motion was made and ſeconded: "That in reſpect "the ordination and ſettlement of Mr Gleig has already taken "place, notwithſtanding of the appeal from the Synod in "October laſt, the Aſſembly do now wave the conſideration "of ſaid appeal, and find, That albeit the Preſbytery have "acted irregularly, and are ſubject to cenſure; yet the ordi-"nation and ſettlement of Mr Gleig are good and valid."—The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *Firſt* or *Second* Motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Second Motion.* Therefore the Aſſembly decided in terms of the Second Motion accordingly. Upon which, Charles Hope, Eſq; and Dr Greive diſſented.

The Aſſembly then proceeded to conſider the objection to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock, which had been delayed till the cauſe reſpecting Mr Gleig's ſettlement was diſcuſſed.—The objection was, "That Mr George Gleig "is returned as one of the repreſentatives, though he is, in "fact, not even a Miniſter of the Church of Scotland, much "leſs Miniſter at Aberbrothock, ſince his pretended ordination "and admiſſion is in the face of the Act 5. Seſſ. 9. 1732."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

The Aſſembly alſo conſidered the objection to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Aberbrothock, *viz.* "That the Kirk-ſeſ-"ſion's atteſtation is invalid, as ſigned by the above named "Mr George Gleig."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion. Upon which, Mr George Fergufſon diſſented, and proteſted.

The Aſſembly finding that the roll is now completely purged, the Moderator was authoriſed by them to break open the ſeals of that copy of the roll, which had been delivered to his charge by order of the Aſſembly, on the 21ſt inſtant, wherein the names of all the Members voting, and for which candidate for the Clerkſhip they had voted, were marked; and the Moderator having read out the names of ſuch perſons as the Aſſembly had agreed to expunge from the roll, the majority of legal votes was found to be in favour of Profeſſor Dalzel; whereupon he was declared to be duly elected.—Therefore, the Aſſembly did elect, conſtitute and appoint, Mr ANDREW DALZEL, Profeſſor of Greek in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, to be Principal Clerk to the General Aſſembly, and Commiſſions thereof, with power to him to exerce that office, and enjoy the emoluments, profits and privileges thereof, during all the days of his natural life, as fully and freely as Dr John Dryſdale, or any other his predeceſſors enjoyed the ſame: And Profeſſor Dalzel compearing, the oath *de fideli adminiſtratione officii* was adminiſtered to him, and he took his place as Principal Clerk to the General Aſſembly. Upon which, Dr Greive and Mr George Fergufſon diſſented, and proteſted.—Thereafter, the roll above mentioned was again ſealed by the

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the Moderator, and delivered, in the Assembly's presence, to Dr William Gloag, the Sub-clerk of Assembly.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 30. 1789. *Sess. 9th.*

Sederunt.

Several Members adhered to the dissent and protest taken yesterday by Dr Greive and Mr George Fergusson, respecting the election of Professor Dalzel, as Principal Clerk of Assembly.

Two Members also adhered to the dissent and protest taken yesterday by Mr Charles Hope and Dr Greive, respecting the decision in the case of Mr Gleig.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 506 : 18 : 2$\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 3 : 11 : 1 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging him of the sum of L. 158 : 18 : 9 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 35 : 16 : 7$\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer to the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinstone Balfour, Stationer to the Church, and payment ordered.

The report of the Committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, together with the opinion of the Procurator and Committee thereon, given in, and read.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr Patrick MacArthur, Minister of Torosay, the sum of L. 36, 5 s. Sterling, after the debts already on the fund, are paid.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr James Smail, Minister of Dornoch, the sum of L. 4 Sterling, after the debts already on the fund, are paid.

The cause respecting the feuing of the glebe of Little Dunkeld, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to take such steps as may appear necessary to bring the question to a final decision, at the public expence.

The process of reduction of the decreet of modification of the stipend of Kinloss, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The process of locality of the stipend of the Parish of Westra, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on at the public expence, and to do therein as they shall see cause.

The petition for Mr John Gordon, Minister of Strathdon, respecting a reduction of a decreet of modification of the stipend of

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of that parish in the year 1722, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to take such steps as may appear necessary in this business, at the public expence.

The process at the instance of Mr John Anderson, Minister of the united parishes of Stronsay and Eday, against his heritors, with regard to the reparation of his manse; and also the process of intrusion at the instance of Robert Laing of Strynie, against Mr Anderson, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on at the public expence; but, *in hoc statu*, refused Mr Anderson's petition *quoad ultra*.

The process of suppression of the parish of Nenthorn, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to do therein as they shall see cause, at the public expence.

The petition for Mr George Barry and Mr James Watson, Commissioners from the Presbytery of Kirkwall, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to enquire into the grievances therein set forth, and to take such steps, as shall appear necessary to obtain relief, at the public expence.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-record called for.—They reported that they had no remarks to make, no business having come before last Commission, and consequently the Commission and instructions were only inserted in the record.—The record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in and approved of.—The Assembly added thereto, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Minister at Inveresk, in place of the Moderator, and also all those whose commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

See Printed Acts, No. VII.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty register, given in and read.—The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed Acts, No. VIII.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns, ordered to be attested.

The Committees appointed to revise the other Synod-books, ordered to give in their reports on Monday.

The Committee on the scheme for erecting new Parishes in the Highlands and Islands renewed, with the former powers.

The following Persons appointed as a Committee for managing the Enzie-fund, *viz.* Dr Hunter, Dr Hardy, Mr Simpson, and Mr Greenfield, *Ministers*.—The Procurator, Mr John Russel, *junior*, Bailie Leslie, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr James Saunders, writer, and Mr George Andrew, writer, *Ruling Elders*.

Upon a motion, the Assembly appointed the Presbytery of Aberbrothock to sist themselves at the bar of next Assembly, in order to answer for their conduct in the settlement of Mr Gleig, and to bring up the record of their proceedings, relative to the settlement of the said Mr Gleig.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, *&c.* containing

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Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Linlithgow, "That the designation of the Commissioner is not only "incomplete, but different from the person named in the "Commission."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Queensferry, "That the designation of the Ruling Elder is not sufficiently explicit." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Biggar and Dalkeith, "The same as to that from "the Presbytery of Stirling."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commissions.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Haddington, "That from the error of a word, the Presbytery's "attestation does not bear the approbation of the Commission."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The same objection was made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Dunbar, as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling.—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Dunbar, "That the attestation is not signed on the first page, nor does "the second refer to it."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The same objection with that made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling, was also made to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Dunse, Churnside, Kelso, and Jedburgh. —The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commissions.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Jedburgh, "That the Presbytery's attestation does not attest the qualifications of Mr Erskine, therefore the substitution of Mr "Wilde, thereon grafted, cannot be good."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission; upon which Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lauder, "That the Elder is not properly designed."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Lauder, "That the Kirk-session's attestation is signed *Minister*, contrary to the form, which requires *Moderator*."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Selkirk, "That in the nomination of the original member, the word "*Nine* is superinduced on an erazure, and that there is no "other date following upon the same paper, to ascertain that "the true date was in the year 1789: *2dly*, That the person "originally elected, was not attested, either by the Kirk-ses-

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"sion, or by the Presbytery."—The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Langholm, "That the Commission is not subscribed by any per-"son whatever."—The Assembly sustained the objection, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Sanquhar, "That in the attestation by the Presbytery, the word *before* "which is material, is wrote seemingly in a different hand, "distant from the line, on an unsigned margin, and followed "by a deleted word."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Dumfries, "That the Commission is informal, in so far, as being but "an extract itself, it appoints an extract thereof to be de-"livered."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

As to the double election from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, it was objected to the Commission in favour of William Lenox, "1*mo*, That he was not elected by a legal majority of the "Town-council of Kirkcudbright: And, 2*do*, That his pre-"tended Commission was neither attested by the Presbytery, "nor refused to be attested by them." It was objected to the Commission in favour of Mr Horatius Cannan, that, 1*mo*, "It is a settled point, That where there is a double return, "neither of the persons so returned can vote, till the respective "merits of those returns be determined: 2*do*, Mr Cannan's "Commission is not signed; and though the strange doquet "annexed to it, may be argued, as vesting a right to be af-"terwards declared, it never can support a vote already gi-"ven, before any judgment pronounced upon the objection."

See Ass. 1736, Sess. 1.

—The Assembly sustained the objection to Mr Lenox, and rejected his Commission.—The Assembly then proceeded to consider the objection to Mr Cannan's Commission; and having caused to be read a petition for him, with an extract of the minutes of the burgh of Kirkcudbright, and other papers respecting his Commission, the Assembly, after reasoning, found, That Mr Cannan was duly elected, as Elder for the burgh of Kirkcudbright; and therefore repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. Upon which Mr Solicitor General and Mr Bushby dissented, and protested.—The Assembly thereafter found, That notwithstanding the double return, Mr Cannan was entitled to claim his vote, before the merits of the double return were determined. Upon which Mr Charles Hope dissented, and protested; to which Mr MacLeod of Cadboll adhered.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Wigton: "1*mo*, The same as that to the Commission from the Pres-"bytery of Stirling: And, 2*do*, The Elder is not sufficiently "designed."—The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained

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sustained the Commission; upon which Mr Adam Gillies dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Wigton, "That the Presbytery's attestation is not signed on the first "page." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Whithorn, "That the date of the Presbytery's attestation is filled "up evidently in a different hand and ink." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Ayr, "That the attestation by the Kirk-session attests the Com-"missioner to be an heritor within the bounds of the *said* "Presbytery, and there is no Presbytery mentioned in "the preceding part of the attestation: Therefore, there is no "attestation, that he is an heritor within the Presbytery of "Ayr, within the bounds of which the burgh lies, and the "attestation does not mention any other qualification. To "which is added, That the words *of Ayr* on the margin, are "not sufficient to remove the objection, as they are no legal "part of the attestation." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. Upon which Mr John Erskine dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Hamilton, respecting the Elder, "That John Millar, Esq; Ad-"vocate, is Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow, "who, it is believed, did not appear in this Assembly; nor "can the vote be sustained, which was given by another gen-"tleman, assuming a designation which did not belong to him, "the designation of the gentleman who actually voted, be-"ing, John Millar, Esq; *junior*, Advocate. 2*do*, Objected "to the whole Commission, the same as to that from the Pres-"bytery of Stirling." The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission. Upon which Mr Bushby dissented, and protested.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lanark, "The same as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of "Stirling." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the city of Glasgow, "That though the attestation by the Kirk-session bears to have "been given by the Kirk-session of the West Parish of Glas-"gow, yet the attestation by the Presbytery does not bear the "production to them by the said Kirk-session, but of an at-"testation by *a* Kirk-session of the said burgh; so that, for "ought that appears, the Presbytery may have made their "attestation, in consequence of there having been produced to "them an attestation by some other Kirk-session of the burgh, "than the Kirk-session of the West Parish. To which is ad-"ded, That the word *a* before Kirk-session, is evidently su-"perinduced over the word *the*." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. See Act 9. Ass. 1788.

It

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Dumbarton, "That in the date of the act of Aſſembly preſcribing the "*formula*, as mentioned in the Kirk-ſeſſion's atteſtation, the "word *ſeven* appears to have been erazed, and the word *ſix* "ſuperinduced." The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of New Galloway, "1*mo*, That the gentleman ſaid to be elected, is not "ſufficiently deſigned. 2*do*, That he has none of the quali-"fications required by law, to entitle him to repreſent the "burgh of New Galloway. 3*tio*, That the firſt page of the "extract is not ſubſcribed; and, 4*to*, It wants the atteſta-"tions of both the Kirk-ſeſſion and Preſbytery." The Aſſembly ſuſtained the ſecond objection, rejected the Commiſſion, and ordained the Commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the roll. Upon which Mr George Fergufſon diſſented, and proteſted.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Univerſity of St Andrews, "That in the beginning of the Commiſſion, the words, "*the Principal, Profeſſors, Maſters, and other Members*, and "afterwards, the words, *having right to elect*, are omitted, "and the Commiſſion is begun in theſe words, *The which day* "*a meeting of the Univerſity of St Andrews being called and con-*"*vened*, &c." The Aſſembly unanimouſly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

See Act 7. Aſſ. 1770.

A member called for the Commiſſion from the burgh of Rothſay, and objected to the manner of the deſignation.—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion. Upon which, Mr David Cathcart diſſented, and proteſted.

Overture anent the Slave-trade, and overture for reſcinding the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1788, were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Aſſembly agreed to conſider the cauſe of Mr Gleig to-morrow, and to conſider the cauſe reſpecting Dr MacGill, after the roll of the Aſſembly is purged, and the election of the Clerk declared; and after that, the Settlement of Ardroſſan, as the firſt private cauſe.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 29. 1789. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The Aſſembly, upon a motion, unanimouſly ordered, "That "before the Clerk begin to call the roll, the doors of the "Aſſembly-houſe ſhall be ſhut, and ſhall not be opened, un-"til the judgment of the Aſſembly be declared."

See printed Acts, No. VI.

The report of the Committee for claſſing returns to overtures tranſmitted, given in, read, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

The Committee for reviſing the Commiſſion-record, the Royal Bounty-record, and the Synod-books, appointed to meet, and report to-morrow.

Upon

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taining an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday; and upon a motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the Chair, to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

The Committee for conſidering the overtures on the horſe-tax, with the overtures on the ſame ſubject given in to laſt Aſſembly, and the proceedings thereon, appointed to give in their report on Monday.

A complaint by Dr William Taylor and others, from a ſentence of the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, remitting an overture relative to ſome publications of the Reverend Dr William Macgill, one of the Miniſters of Ayr, to the Preſbytery of Ayr, and enjoining them to enquire into the grounds of an alleged *fama clamoſa*, reſpecting theſe publications, heard; and, after reaſoning at great length, the Aſſembly agreed to delay the farther conſideration of this affair till Monday.

Adjournment.

Monday, June 1. 1789.—*Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale, and the Synod-book of Dumfries, ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion for Miniſters widows, *&c.* again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Liſt of Probationers produced, their names read out and ordered to be recorded.

The overture concerning the licenſing of Probationers, and the overture concerning the ordination of Elders, ordered to be re-tranſmitted. See Printed Acts, No. IX. & X.

The report of the Committee named for conſidering the overtures anent the horſe-tax, called for, given in, read, and approved of, appointing "a Committee to apply to Parliament for an "exemption from the tax upon riding-horſes, and every other "tax, to which the Clergy are, or may be ſubjected; and to "report their progreſs to next General Aſſembly."

Reaſons of diſſent and proteſt againſt the reſolution, reſpecting the election of Principal Clerk of Aſſembly, at the firſt diet of this Aſſembly, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

Reaſons of diſſent and proteſt by Mr George Fergufſon, in name of Dr Carlyle, againſt the proceedings relative to the election of Principal Clerk, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

Alſo reaſons of diſſent and proteſt were reſpectively given in and read, againſt the following deciſions of the Aſſembly, *viz.* The deciſion reſpecting the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Mull:

The deciſion in the caſe of the ſettlement of Mr Gleig:

The deciſion reſpecting Provoſt Charles Allan's commiſſion:

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The decision in the case of the substitution to the election by the Presbytery of Zetland:

The decision in the case of the Commission from the Burgh of Kirkcudbright, in favour of Mr Horatius Cannan:

The decision in the case of the Elder from the Presbytery of Abertarph:

The decision in the case of the substitution of the Elder by the Presbytery of Kintyre:

And general reasons of dissent and protest against the scrutiny of the roll of the Assembly, in the case of the election of Principal Clerk:

All of which reasons of dissent were ordered to lie *in retentis;* and the clerks to give out certified copies of the same when required.

Upon a motion, the General Assembly appointed the Moderator, Dr Erskine, Mr Solicitor General, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Professor Dalzel, and the Procurator, as a Committee, to apply in the name of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to the Lord Clerk Register, and the Trustees of the Register-office, and to request that they would be pleased to appropriate a room in that Office, in which the records and papers belonging to the Church may be kept, under the custody of the Clerk thereof; and the Assembly recommended to Mr William Murray *jun.* writer in Edinburgh, to arrange those books and papers, and to make an inventory of the same.

The General Assembly resumed the consideration of the cause of Dr Macgill, and after long reasoning, the Assembly unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr; but recommended to the Presbytery of Ayr to take such steps in this matter as they shall find necessary for preserving the purity of the doctrines of this Church, and the authority of her standards. The Clerk ordered to transmit an extract of this sentence to the Presbytery of Ayr.

The Member who brought in the overture relative to the Slave Trade, withdrew the same, in respect the Assembly had already made a resolution upon that subject, and had not time to enter upon any new proposition.

A Committee named to consider the overtures concerning the augmentations of stipends, and to report to next Assembly. Sir Henry Moncreiff appointed Convener of the Committee.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the ACTS of the ASSEMBLY as are to be Standing Rules, in order to their being printed.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

See Printed Acts, No. XI. Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

FINIS.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 20th DAY OF MAY 1790.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF *SCOTLAND.*

M.DCC.XC.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 20th day of MAY 1790, and concluded the 31st Day of the said Month and Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 20. 1790.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL CHURCH being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the KING's Commission, sealed with the seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and

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and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventûs et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradûs seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto vigesimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.*

In

In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostrum apud St James's, vigesimo-primo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo, Regnique nostri anno trigesimo.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascriptam.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The many proofs which you have given of your loyalty and attachment to Our Person and Government, and of your zeal for the promotion of Christian Piety and Learning, and encouragement of true Religion and Virtue, have made the strongest impressions on Our Mind, and must insure to you the continuance of Our Paternal Affection and Regard; and it is with great satisfaction that We embrace this opportunity of renewing to you those favourable testimonies which We have so often borne to your conduct, and of repeating to you Our determination to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

We trust that your proceedings on the present occasion will be directed to the primary and important objects of maintaining the great cause of Religion, of checking the growth of Vice and Immorality, of enforcing obedience to the Laws, and promoting the practice of all Christian duties; and that you will endeavour, to the utmost of your power, to diffuse a spirit of Charity and Benevolence among all descriptions of men.

We have again conſtituted and appointed Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin, DAVID, Earl of LEVEN, to be Our Commiſſioner to repreſent Our Perſon and Royal Authority in the preſent Aſſembly; not doubting, but that the ſame diſtinguiſhed qualifications which have recommended him to Our repeated choice, will continue to make him acceptable to you in the execution of the high and important truſt committed to his care.

We have now only to recommend to you the ſame moderation, judgment, and propriety of conduct, which have hitherto diſtinguiſhed your proceedings: We truſt that you will continue to avoid all unneceſſary diſputes and altercations; and that the example which you ſet, may be effectual in promoting harmony and good-will among all Our ſubjects belonging to the Church of Scotland. And ſo We bid you heartily farewell.——Given at Our Court at St James's, the 15th day of May 1790, in the thirtieth year of Our reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

W. W. GRENVILLE.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the KING's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majeſty hath honoured this meeting of the General Aſſembly of this National Church, was received with the utmoſt reſpect and gratitude.

It

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It affords us high ſatisfaction, in the diſcharge of our duty, that our loyalty and attachment to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and our zeal in promoting Chriſtian Piety and Learning, and in encouraging true Religion and Virtue, have made a favourable impreſſion upon Your Royal Mind; and we ſhall proceed with alacrity in a line of conduct which Your Majeſty has graciouſly declared will inſure us a continuance of Your Paternal Affection and Regard. We cheriſh the remembrance of the repeated teſtimonies of Royal Approbation which we have formerly received: We look up to Your Majeſty as the Nurſing Father of the Church; and we rely on Your Majeſty's determination to preſerve and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

We truſt that we ſhall never loſe ſight of the primary and important objects to which Your Majeſty is pleaſed to direct our attention: And it is our happineſs to know, that we live under the government of a Prince to whom we cannot give any proof of Loyalty ſo acceptable as the exertion of our ſtrenuous endeavours in maintaining the great cauſe of Religion, in checking the growth of Vice and Immorality, in enforcing obedience to the Laws, in promoting the practice of all Chriſtian duties, and in diffuſing a ſpirit of Charity and Benevolence.

We regard the appointment of the EARL of LEVEN, to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in the preſent Aſſembly, as a freſh mark of Your Majeſty's favour to the Church of Scotland. His warm attachment, like that of his anceſtors, to this Church, his zeal for the intereſts of Religion, the virtues of his life, and our happy experience of thoſe diſtinguiſhed qualifications which have recommended him to Your Majeſty's repeated choice, conſpire to render him moſt acceptable to us in the execution of the high and important truſt committed to him.

We receive, with much thankfulneſs, Your Royal Donation for promoting the knowledge of the Proteſtant Religion in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland; and we ſhall ſtudy to ſhew ourſelves not unworthy of the confidence which Your Majeſty is pleaſed to repoſe in us, by applying it, with fidelity and diligence, to the pious and important purpoſe for which it is beſtowed.

Your

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Your Majesty has shown the most gracious attention to the dignity and efficacy of our proceedings, by recommending moderation and propriety of conduct. We wish most earnestly to avoid all unnecessary disputes and altercations; and we feel that it is the duty of the Ministers of the PRINCE of PEACE, to set an example of that harmony and good-will which they inculcate upon the people committed to their care, as most congenial to the spirit of our Religion, and most essential to the happiness of Society.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom Kings reign, may preserve Your Majesty's Person, and direct Your Councils;—that He may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE of WALES, and all the Royal Family;—that He may continue to us the many National Blessings in which Your Subjects now rejoice;—that, after a long and prosperous reign over a free, a happy, and a grateful people, You may receive that Crown which fadeth not away;—and that a race of Princes, descended from Your Illustrious House, and formed after Your example, may, to the latest posterity, sway the British Sceptre with moderation and renown, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 22. 1790. } JOHN WALKER, *Moderator.*

IV.

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IV.

COMMISSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1790. *Sess.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission, and appoint, the Reverend Dr JOHN WALKER, Minister of Collington, and *Regius* Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr William Auld at Mauchlin, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr James Young at New Cumnock, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr David Grant at Ochiltree, *Ministers;* John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Dr James Woodrow at Stevenston, Mr David MacClellan at Beith, Mr John Duncan at Ardrossan, *Ministers;* the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Dr John Snodgrass at Paisley, Mr John Monteith *junior*, at Neilston, Mr John Finlay at Paisley, Mr James Steven at Lochwinnoch, *Ministers;* Mr John Orr *senior*, manufacturer in Paisley, Mr Robert Barclay, manufacturer there, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Renfrew*, Mr Andrew Arthur in Loanhead:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr John Scott at Avendale, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, *Ministers;* John Hamilton, Esq; of Westburn, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr Robert Inglis at Carmichael, Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmehagow, *Ministers;* Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne of Castlebank, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Mr Alexander Dobie at Eaglesham, Mr William Dun at Kirkintilloch, Mr James Lapslie at Campsie, Mr Robert Rennie at Kilsyth, *Ministers;* Thomas Muir,

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Esq; advocate, Mr William Hosier, merchant in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—From the *University* of *Glasgow*, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Oliphant at Dumbarton, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, *Ministers*; the Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Mr John Key, Dean of Guild of Dumbarton:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Charles Stewart at Strathchur, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmonel, Mr Archibald Robertson at Kildalton in Islay, *Ministers*; Archibald MacDonald of Sanda, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;:—From the *Burgh* of *Inveraray*, Professor James Williamson, Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr Donald MacNicol at Lismore, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandan, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethendy, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, *Ministers*; David Stuart, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, John Hagart, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Perth*, Mr David Bannerman at St Martins, Mr David Beatson at Dumbarney, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr Anthony Dow at Kilspindie, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Walter Millar, writer in Perth, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Perth*, John Caw, Esq; present Provost:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr James Sommerville at Stirling, Mr William Sheriff at St Ninians, *Ministers*; Sir William Murray of Touchadam, Bart., *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Wright at Trinity Gask, Mr Thomas Bartie at Monzie, Mr John Brown at Glendovan, *Ministers*; the Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of Faculty, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumblane*, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, Mr John Campbell at Kippen, *Ministers*; William MacLauchlan, Esq; of Auchintroig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, Mr Patrick Spence at Orwell, Mr William Daling at Cleish, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:

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Elder:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkaldie*, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Andrew Grant at Portmoak, Mr Thomas Scott at Ballingrie, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkaldie*, Mr Robert Philp, merchant, and one of the Bailies of Kirkaldie:—From the *Burgh* of *Kinghorn*, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Provost of Kinghorn:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creich, Mr Samuel Martin at Monymail, Mr Robert Arnot at Ceres, Mr Andrew Brown at Falkland, *Ministers*; James Blyth, Esq; of Kinnenmounth, Mr James Balfour at Kilmeny, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairney:—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrews*, Dr Robert Dalgliesh at Ferry-port-on-craigs, Dr John Adamson at St Andrews, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monance, Mr Alexander Brodie at Carnbee, *Ministers*; Lieut. Col. Alexander Monypenny, Mr Henry-David Hill, Professor of Greek, St Andrews, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrews*, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh:—From the *University* of *St Andrews*, Dr George Hill, Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College:—From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr James Ogilvy at Eassie, Mr James Edward at Lintrathen, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, *Ministers*; George Robertson-Scott, Esq; of Benholm, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Wright at Rescobie, Mr James Lyon at Glammis, *Ministers*; Alexander Watson, Esq; younger, of Turin, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr William Maule at Monikie, Mr John Anderson at Dundee, Mr William Reid at Dundee, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Thoms, merchant in Dundee, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Robert Trail at Panbride, Mr Alexander Chaplin at Kinnell, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Miln, merchant in Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, Mr Alexander Peter at Logiepert, Mr James Mitchell at Montrose, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; *junior*, of Edmonstone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Montrose*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr Robert Crole at Bervie, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, *Ministers*; Robert Cullen, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Mr George Abercrombie at Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Mr William Strachan at Duires,

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Duires, Mr George Morison at Banchory Devenick, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From *Marishall College*, Professor Robert Hamilton, Aberdeen;—From the *Presbytery* of *Kincardine O'neal*, Mr Charles MacHardy at Crathie, Mr Joseph Smith at Birse, Mr Alexander Robertson at Coull, *Ministers*; William MacDonald, Esq; of Rineaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Alford*, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr George Donaldson at Kenethmont, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger, of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr Patrick Mitchell at Kemnay, *Ministers*; George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kintore*, the Honourable Lord Henderland:—From the *Presbytery* of *Deer*, Mr James Johnston at Cremond, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Mr Alexander Simpson at Fraserburgh, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr William Stuart at Turriff, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglep, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr John Cooper at Glass, Mr William Greig at Rothiemay, *Ministers*; Cosmo Gordon, Esq; of Cluny, Baron of Exchequer, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant of Hilton, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Gordon at Alvey, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, William Scott, Esq; banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, Mr David Miln at Dollas, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Henry, factor to the Laird of Birdyards at Sanquhar, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairne*, Mr Alexander Grant at Calder, Mr Pryce Campbell at Arderfier, *Ministers*; Mr William Dunbar, writer to the Signet,

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Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander Gordon at Daviot, *Ministers*; Robert MacIntosh, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverness*, Simon Fraser, Esq; of Faraline:—From the *Presbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, Mr David Dunoon *junior* at Killiarnen, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Andrew Gally at Kincardine, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, *Ministers*; the Honourable Lord Ankerville, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldhame:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Roderick Mackenzie at Contin, Mr Donald Mackenzie at Fodertie, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie *junior*, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Malcolm Macleod at Snizort, Mr Roderick Macleod at Bracadale, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Alexander Lord MacDonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr William Mackenzie at Assint, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, *Ministers*; Robert-Bruce-Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tong*, Mr William Mackenzie at Tong, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horn, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendall, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flottay, Mr George Low at Birsay and Harray, *Ministers*; John Clerk, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr William Clouston at Cross and Burness, Mr James Leslie at Rousay, *Ministers*; John Wilde, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr John Morison at Delting, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, of the College of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Mr Henry Lundie, Dr James Macknight, Mr John Kemp, at Edinburgh, Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood at St Cuthberts, Mr Robert Walker, Canongate, Mr William Cameron at Kirknewton and East Calder, *Ministers*; Bailie William Galloway, merchant in Edinburgh, Mr John Haddoway, merchant in South Leith, Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant in Canongate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City*

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of *Edinburgh*, the Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, Deacon-convener of the Trades:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr William Finlay at Polmont, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr John Willison at West Calder, *Ministers;* the Honourable Robert Sandilands, Mr John Gloag, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Clerk, Esq; late Provost of Linlithgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Robert Blair, Esq; His Majesty's Solicitor-General:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr John Fraser at Liberton, Mr Patrick Mollison at Walston, *Ministers;* John Brown of Coultermains, Esq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr William Welch at Drummelzier, Mr William Marshall at Manner, *Ministers;* James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr James Finlayson at Borthwick, Mr William Torrence at Glencross, *Ministers;* the Right Honourable Robert Dundas, Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr James Innes at Yester, Mr Robert Scott at Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvald, *Ministers;* John Hamilton, Esq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, the Most Honourable George Marquis of Tweeddale:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Hew Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Martin at Spott, Mr Andrew Spence at Cockburnspath, *Ministers;* John Anderson of Winterfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunse*, Mr Alexander Girvan at *Langton*, Mr John Tod at Fogo, *Ministers;* Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Couston, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Churnside*, Mr David Young at Foulden, Mr Adam Landells at Hutton, *Ministers;* John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelso, Mr James Richardson at Mackerston, *Ministers;* the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Treasurer of the Navy, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Dr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, Dr Samuel Charters at Wilton, Mr Robert Gillan at Hawick, *Ministers;* Mr James Dickson, bookseller in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon,

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don, Mr William Shiells at Weſtruther, *Miniſters;* Thomas Cleghorn, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Dr Robert Cramond at Yarrow, Mr Robert Douglas at Galaſhiells, *Miniſters;* William Elliot younger of Borthwickbrae, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Roughead, late merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Ruſſell at Cannoby, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk, *Miniſters;* Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Dr William Bryden at Dalton, Mr Thomas Henderſon at Dryſdale, Mr William Sibbald at Johnſton, *Miniſters;* Mr Francis Armſtrong, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr John Robertſon at Kirkconnel, Mr John Yorſtoun at Morton, *Miniſters;* John MacMurdo, Eſq; at Drumlanrig, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Mr William Burnſide at Dumfries, Mr Edward Neilſon at Kirkbean, *Miniſters;* Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Fergufſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq;:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr John Gilleſpie at Kells, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Dr John Scott at Twynholm, *Miniſters;* John Gordon of Carleton, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Wigton*, Mr John Steven at Mochrum, Mr John Garlies-Maitland at Minygaff, *Miniſters;* Mr Alexander Burton, merchant in Wigton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, George Cranſton, Eſq; of Dewar:—From the *Burgh* of *Whithorn*, John Buſhby, Eſq; Sheriff-Clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Mr Henry Blain at Stonykirk, *Miniſters;* the Honourable Patrick Maitland of Freugh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—And the General Aſſembly added thereto, Dr Thomas Hardy, one of the miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Church Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; together with all thoſe whoſe Commiſſions were rejected on account of informality, *viz.* For the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Norman Macleod at Morven, Mr Dugald Campbell at Roſs, *Miniſters;*

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Miniſters; Allan MacDougall of Galanach, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—For the *Burgh* of *Cullen*, Mr John Gordon *junior*, of Cairnfield, advocate:—And for the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Mr John Cameron at Halkirk, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters;* John Dickſon, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—To BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting

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promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the seventeenth act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hun-

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dred and fix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſponding meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.

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V.

COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1790, *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr JOHN WALKER, *Regius* Profeſſor of Natural Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William Auld at Mauchlin, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Dr James Woodrow at Stevenſton, Dr John Snodgraſs at Paiſley, Mr John Monteith *junior* at Neilſton, Mr Henry Stevenſon at Blantyre, Mr Robert Inglis at Carmichael, Mr Alexander Dobie at Eagleſham, Mr William Dun at Kirkintilloch, Mr James Oliphant at Dumbarton, Mr Charles Stewart at Strathchur, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Donald MacNicol at Liſmore, Mr Robert Williamſon at Lethendy, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr David Bannerman at St Martins, Mr David Beatſon at Dumbarney, Mr James Sommerville at Stirling, Mr John Wright at Trinity Gaſk, Mr Thomas Bartie at Monzie, Mr John Kinroſs at Lecropt, Mr Alexander Thomſon at Carnock, Mr George Shaw at Abbotſhall, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creich, Mr Samuel Martin at Monymail, Dr Robert Dalglieſh at Ferry-port-on-Craigs, Dr John Adamſon at St Andrews, Dr George Hill at St Andrews, Mr James Ogilvie at Eaſſie, Mr Thomas Wright at Reſcobie, Mr William Maule at Monikie, Mr Robert Trail at Panbride, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr George Abercrombie at Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Mr Charles MacHardie at Crathie, Mr Joſeph Smith at Birſe, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr James Johnſton at Crimond, Mr William

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liam Stuart at Turriff, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloſs, Mr Alexander Grant at Calder, Mr George Watſon at Inverneſs, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, Mr Andrew Gally at Kincardine, Mr Donald MacKenzie at Fodertie, Mr Malcolm Macleod at Snizort, Mr William MacKenzie at Aſſint, Mr William MacKenzie at Tong, Mr William Anderſon at Evie, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr William Clouſton at Croſs, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr William Welch at Drummelzier, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr James Innes at Yeſter, Mr John Martin at Spott, Mr Alexander Girvan at Langton, Mr David Young at Foulden, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelſo, Dr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Dr Robert Cramond at Yarrow, Mr John Ruſſell at Cannoby, Mr Thomas Henderſon at Dryſdale, Mr John Robertſon at Kirkconnel, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Mr John Gilleſpie at Kells, Mr Robert Steven at Mochrum, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, *Miniſters;* George Fergusſon, Eſq; advocate, Thomas Muir, Eſq; advocate, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; advocate, the Lord Preſident, John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Archibald MacDonald of Sanda, Eſq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq; David Stewart, Eſq; John Haggart, Eſq; Mr Alexander Bonar, banker, the Dean of Faculty, Colonel Monypenny, Dr Andrew Duncan, George Robertſon-Scott, Eſq; Mr Thomas Miln, merchant in Canongate, Adam Gillies, Eſq; Robert Cullen, Eſq; the Procurator, William MacDonald, Eſq; James Gordon, Eſq; younger of Craig, George Buchan-Hepburn, Eſq; Lord Henderland, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Mr George Andrew, writer, Baron Gordon, Mr Iſaac Grant, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer, William Scott, Eſq; banker, Mr William Dunbar, writer, Robert MacIntoſh, Eſq; advocate, Simon Fraſer, Eſq; Convener John Lindſay, Lord Ankerville, Mr Kenneth MacKenzie *junior*, writer, Mr William MacLean, merchant, Mr James Horn, writer, Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer, Mr John Clerk, advocate, Mr John Wilde, advocate, Profeſſor Andrew Dalzel, Bailie William Galloway, Bailie Daniel Miller, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Hart, Mr John Gloag, merchant,

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merchant, the Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; of Spittlehaugh, the Lord Advocate, the Marquis of Tweeddale, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; Bailie James Dickson, the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr James Saunders, writer, Mr Francis Armstrong, merchant, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, Mr John Peat, writer, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; George Cranston, Esq; John Bushby, Esq; the Honourable Patrick Maitland, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr Macleod of Cadboll, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them

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ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Aſſemblies: And to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters, the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, That they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners or gentlemen of the diſtrict ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the Caſhier, a declaration that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall in like manner bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſuppreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the

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ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be miniſters; and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting, (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme) upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the

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the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a Sub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

VI.

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VI.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders, re-transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1790. *Sess. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 19th day of May, 1791.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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PRO-

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PROPOSALS for the Melioration of Glebes, submitted by the General Assembly to the Consideration of the Church.

[*See Abridgment, May* 28. 1790. *Sess.* 8.]

THAT every Minister of the Church of Scotland, who shall hereafter be admitted, and come to the enjoyment of the full benefice of a parish, shall be liable to pay, in the manner after mentioned, to his last predecessor, or his heirs, executors, or assignees, for all the fences, dikes, ditches, or hedges, inclosing and subdividing his glebe; provided always, that such fences, &c. be done according to a plan seen and approved by the Presbytery in whose bounds the glebe lies, and inserted in a separate register kept by them for that purpose, before such fences, &c. were begun.

2. That within one calendar month after a successor shall be admitted and come to the enjoyment of the full benefice of a parish, all the fences, dikes, ditches, and hedges, inclosing and subdividing a glebe, shall be valued according to their worth at that time, by four competent and sworn comprisers; two of whom to be chosen by the successor, and two of them by the last incumbent, or his heirs, &c.; the said four comprisers having power to chuse an oversman, if need be, and their sentence shall be final.

3. That the whole sum at which the fences, &c. inclosing and subdividing a glebe, may be valued, shall be paid by the successor, or his heirs, &c. to the last incumbent, or his heirs, &c. in seven equal parts or instalments; *i. e.* the first seventh part of said sum shall be paid as above, by the successor, &c. at the first term of Whitsunday that shall happen after he hath been entitled to his second year's stipend.

4. That no successor, or his heirs, &c. shall be liable to pay to his predecessor, or his heirs, &c. above the sum of fifty pounds Sterling, for all the fences, &c. inclosing and subdividing his glebe.

5. If any Minister of the Church of Scotland shall die, or be translated to another parish, after he shall have begun, and before he shall have finished the inclosures and subdivisions of his glebe; in either of these cases, the said Minister, or his heirs, &c. shall be entitled to payment in manner above mentioned, according to a comprisement made as above, from his successor, &c. for whatever fences, dikes, ditches, or hedges, he shall have made on his glebe during his incumbency, at the sight of the Presbytery, in the manner above mentioned.

6. That

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6. That the fences, &c. by which the glebe is inclofed and fubdivided, fhall be maintained during a vacancy, from the profits of the glebe. Alfo, That whoever poffeffes the glebe during a vacancy, fhall pay to the laft incumbent, or his heirs, &c. one feventh part of the fum at which the fences, &c. are valued at the laft incumbent's death, and that annually during their poffeffion, at firft Martinmas after feparation of the crop from the ground.

7. That if the foregoing propofitions are approved by the majority of the Prefbyteries of this Church, an application be made to Parliament for enacting the fame into a law; and that the expence of carrying the Bill through both Houfes of Parliament, be raifed by a contribution of fix fhillings from each Minifter of this Church, to be collected by the Moderator of each Prefbytery or Synod, and remitted within a limited time, to the Procurator of the Church, or fome Banker in Edinburgh.

ABRIDG-

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held in the year 1790, which are not printed at full length.

Thursday, May 20. 1790. *Sess.* 1*st.*

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St Andrews, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr George Hill, the Reverend Dr JOHN WALKER, Minister of Collington, and *Regius* Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals named.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 21. 1790. *Sess.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

A diet spent in Prayer.

New Commissions produced.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at 7 o'clock, in the usual places.

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The Committees for drawing up an answer to His Majesty's Letter, and for revising Commissions, also to meet this evening.
Adjournment.

Saturday, May 22. 1790. *Sess.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. III.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures given in and read.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull, *viz.* "That it is dated "on the 4th of May, which is a similar objection to that "made to their Commission to last Assembly, and which ob-"jection was then Sustained, and the Commission Rejected, "as appears from the minutes of last Assembly." After reasoning at great length, a motion was made and seconded, "That the vote be put, *Sustain* the Commission from the "Presbytery of Mull, or *Reject* it:"—Which motion was agreed to; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Reject*:—Therefore the Assembly sustained the objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.

The Assembly delayed the further consideration of the report of the Committee for overtures till Monday.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

The Assembly agreed to take up the cause respecting the settlement of the parish of Renfrew on Monday next.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit and revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.
Adjournment.

Monday,

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Monday, May 24. 1790. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The Aſſembly firſt proceeded to conſider the remaining part of the report of the Committee for overtures, which had been delayed ſince Saturday laſt.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Cullen, "That the word *reſided* is omitted in the Commiſſion, and both "the atteſtations."—The Aſſembly ſuſtained the objection, rejected the Commiſſion, and ordained the Commiſſioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Wigton, "That inſtead of *the Magiſtrates*, there appear the words, *the* "*Provoſt and one of the Bailies.*"—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Dumfries, "That in the ſubſtitution, the words *and appoint* are "interlined; and a Member alſo who had reſigned, and "whoſe reſignation had been accepted, is again nominated, "and appointed in the ſubſtitution."—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Caithneſs, "That it is dated on the 4th of May, which is within the "forty days." The Committee reported, "They are there-"fore of opinion it ſhould be rejected."—The Aſſembly approved of the opinion of the Committee, rejected the Commiſſion, and ordained the Commiſſioners names to be expunged from the roll.

The Aſſembly then proceeded to conſider the report of the Committee for overtures, which was this day tranſmitted.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the burgh of Renfrew, "That it has the following marginal note, *or is ready to* "*ſign.*"—The Aſſembly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

A Committee appointed to conſider the overtures from the Synods of Murray and Roſs, and inſtructions from the Preſbytery of North Iſles, reſpecting the improvement of Miniſters glebes, and to bring in their report to the Aſſembly on Friday next.

It was agreed to conſider, on Friday next, the overture from the Synod of Angus and Mearns, reſpecting the augmentation of Miniſters ſtipends.

It was agreed to conſider, on Thurſday next, the overture from the Preſbytery of Jedburgh reſpecting the Teſt Act.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

The Aſſembly agreed to conſider to-morrow, a petition of the Moderator and remanent Members of the Preſbytery of Fordyce, for advice reſpecting an alleged ſimoniacal paction: And, after that, the petition of Mr James Lawſon: To take up the cauſe reſpecting the ſettlement of Newlands on Wedneſday; and the cauſe of Greenock immediately after.

Synod-

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Synod-books called for.

Committees appointed to revise the Synod-books of Perth and Stirling, and of Merse and Teviotdale.

None of the other Synod-books being brought up, appointed that they be brought up to next Assembly.

It was moved, "That whereas the Acts of Assembly relative to "the election and admission of Members of Assembly are de-"tached from one another, and doubts have arisen concern-"ing the interpretation of some of these Acts, a Committee "be appointed to collate the several Acts of former Assem-"blies on this subject, and from them to prepare a set of re-"gulations, to be submitted to the consideration of the As-"sembly."—Which motion the Assembly agreed to, and appointed a Committee accordingly to meet on Wednesday at ten o'clock, with power to adjourn, and to give in their report to the Assembly on Friday, and appointed Dr Adamson convener.

Sir Henry Moncreiff gave in and read the report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for considering the augmentation of Ministers stipends.—The Assembly agreed to consider this report on Friday next, and, in the mean time, ordered the clerks to cause a sufficient number of copies thereof to be printed and distributed amongst the Members of Assembly, as soon as possible.

A petition for John Davidson, Esq; clerk to the Signet, in behalf of the Crown, patron of the parish of Renfrew, and of the Rev. Mr Thomas Burns, Minister of Inchinnan, the Crown's presentee to the said parish of Renfrew, appealing from a sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, referring the cause respecting the settlement of the parish of Renfrew *simpliciter* to the Assembly, read.—Thereafter, the counsel for the patron and presentee having withdrawn the appeal, the Assembly proceeded to take up the cause on the reference from the Synod; and the same being heard, after long reasoning, the following motion was made and seconded: "The General As-"sembly find, That the Presbytery of Paisley ought to have "sustained the call to Mr Thomas Burns, Minister of Inchin-"nan, to be Minister of Renfrew, together with the subse-"quent deeds of concurrence; and they do therefore hereby "sustain the said call.—And the General Assembly farther find, "That the Presbytery, by referring the cause *simpliciter* to "the Synod, instead of giving judgment upon the call, did "thereby render a delay in the said settlement unavoidable, "although there were no circumstances indicating that this "settlement would have been inconsistent with the good of "the Church: Therefore the General Assembly did, and "hereby do ordain the Presbytery to meet at Paisley, upon "the 16th day of June next, to receive this sentence, and to "proceed without delay, according to the rules of the Church, "to take the proper steps for loosing Mr Burns from the "charge of Inchinnan, and admitting him Minister of Ren-"frew."—And another motion was made and seconded, "That "in

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"in respect there appear to be several papers of concurrence, "which were not before the inferior courts, and are not "therefore competently before the Assembly, the cause shall "be remitted to the Presbytery of Paisley, with instructions "to them to receive whatever papers of concurrence shall be "brought before them, and thereafter give judgment on the "merits of the call; and, that there may be no unnecessary "delay in the business, in case any appeal shall be taken from "their judgment thereon, to proceed, notwithstanding such "appeal, to take the steps required by the laws of the Church, "in order to enable them to give judgment on the expediency of translating the presentee from the parish of Inchinnan "to the parish of Renfrew, and pronounce such judgment "without delay, that the whole cause may be ripe for a final "decision, when the matter shall be brought before the Superior Court." This state of the vote was then agreed to, *Sustain* or *Remit*: It being understood, that if it carried *Sustain*, the first motion should be adopted, and if it carried *Remit*, the second motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Sustain*:—Therefore the Assembly adopted the first motion as their judgment. Against which sentence a Member dissented.

The Committees for overtures and bills, appointed to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, May 25. 1790. *Sess.* 5.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced, read, and sustained.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

The Committees for revising the Commission record, and Royal Bounty record, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

A petition of the Moderator and remanent members of the Presbytery of Fordyce, for advice respecting an alleged simoniacal paction, with the Acts of Assembly against such practices, read. The Assembly, unanimously, highly approved of the conduct of the Presbytery of Fordyce, and Synod of Aberdeen; instructed the Procurator for the Church to attend to the progress of the process of reduction before the civil court, brought by Colonel Hay, to concur with the pursuer, and to report the state of the process to the next General Assembly: And they instructed the Presbytery of Fordyce to delay taking any steps in the settlement of Mr Hay, till they receive directions from the Assembly.

A petition for Mr James Lawson preacher, craving the Assembly's permission to preach as a Probationer in the Churches of the Establishment in Scotland, being a licenciate of the Scots Presbytery in London, read; and Mr Lawson himself being heard in support thereof, the Assembly unanimously dismissed

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missed the petition, as inconsistent with the 9th Act of Assembly 1779, respecting persons going without the bounds of this Church to be licensed and ordained.

The Presbytery of Aberbrothock, in terms of the minute of last Assembly, requiring, that they sist themselves at the bar of this Assembly, to answer for their proceeding in the settlement of Mr George Gleig, to be minister of Aberbrothock, being accordingly called to the bar, there appeared Mr Robert Traill at Panbride, Mr Alexander Chaplin at Kinnell, and Mr Alexander Girvan, formerly at Lunan.—The record of the Presbytery respecting the said settlement was then called for, and read; and the Presbytery being heard in their own defence, were removed.—After reasoning, the Assembly unanimously found, "That the proceedings of the Presbytery of "Aberbrothock, in the settlement and ordination of Mr George "Gleig, were highly irregular and incompetent, in respect that "they proceeded to take the steps towards the said settlement, "without having any call before them, and while their minutes "bear, that there was no call: That they afterwards pro-"ceeded to the settlement of Mr Gleig in the face of an ap-"peal regularly taken in the cause, against a sentence of the "Synod of Angus and Mearns to the last General Assembly; "and that it does not appear from their record, that, at the "time of the said ordination, they required Mr Gleig to sub-"scribe the Confession of Faith and *Formula*, as the laws "and practice of this Church require."—And therefore, the Assembly found, "That in these respects the conduct of "the Presbytery was unjustifiable, and deserves the censure "of the Assembly:"—The Assembly therefore did admonish and enjoin the Presbytery of Aberbrothock to be careful to guard against such irregularities for the future; and appointed the Clerk of Assembly to transmit to the clerk of the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, an extract of this minute, which they ordained to be entered into the record of the said Presbytery at their first meeting.

The Committee on public accounts, and the Committee on the forms of Commissions, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 26. 1790. *Sess.* 6.

Sederunt.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the cause respecting the settlement of the parish of Newlands; and the Moderator, being a member of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, from whence the said cause is appealed, was allowed to retire, and Dr George Hill, by desire of the Assembly, took the chair in his room, during the discussion of that cause.

First, an appeal of William Paterson, tenant in Damside, and others, parishioners of Newlands, from a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Peebles, sustaining a call to Mr Charles Findlater, Minister

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Minister of Linton, to be Minister of Newlands, heard.—The Assembly, after reasoning, without a vote, affirmed the sentence of the Synod.—The Assembly were then proceeding to consider another appeal by the said William Paterson and others, and a dissent and complaint by several Members of Synod, against a second sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Peebles, refusing to translate Mr Findlater from the parish of Linton to that of Newlands, when the counsel for the parishioners of Newlands, appellants, appeared at the bar, and said, "That "as he understood there were objections to the admissibility "of the appellants, and the cause was in the hands of seve-"ral Members of the Synod, well able to defend it, he there-"fore withdrew the appeal."—The Assembly then took up the cause upon the dissent and complaint: And parties being heard thereupon,—after long reasoning, two several motions were made and seconded; and the Assembly agreed to put this state of the vote, *Affirm* or *Reverse*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Affirm*: Therefore the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, reversing the sentence of the Presbytery of Peebles, and translating Mr Findlater from the parish of Linton to that of Newlands; and enjoined the Presbytery of Peebles at their first meeting, to order one of their number to preach at Newlands, and serve the edict, and to proceed to Mr Findlater's admission to the parish of Newlands with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Mr John Millar, Advocate, appeared at the bar as counsel for Mr Allan M'Aulay, Minister of Greenock, and passed from the appeal taken by the said Mr M'Aulay, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Paisley, in which he was interested, because he understood a well-founded objection would be made to the competency of the appeal, *viz.* That the reasons of appeal were not lodged in due time with the clerk of the Presbytery.

Adjournment.

Thursday, May 27. 1790. *Sess.* 7.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced, read, and sustained.

The Assembly, agreeable to a former resolution, proceeded to consider the overture from the Presbytery of Jedburgh respecting the Test Act; and after reasoning at very great length, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the following resolutions on the subject of the said overture, *viz.*

1*st*, That by a fundamental article in the Treaty of Union, the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church-government are unalterably secured, as the only established Religion and Church-government within this part of the united kingdom, and are inseparable from the Constitution of the British Empire.

2*dly*, That by the 4th article of the Treaty of Union, it is provided, that there shall be an equal communication of all rights, privileges,

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privileges, and advantages, which belong to the subjects either of Scotland or England, except where it is otherwise expressly agreed by the said Treaty.

3dly, That by an Act of the Parliament passed the 25th year of the reign of Charles II. all persons within the realm of England, Wales, or Berwick-upon-Tweed, holding any office, or offices, civil or military, or receiving any pay, salary, fee, or wages, or having command or place of trust from or under His Majesty, or by authority derived from him, are liable to severe penalties and forfeitures, unless they shall, within a limited time after receiving or being admitted into such office, pay, salary, or wages, receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, in some public Church, upon some Lord's Day, according to the usage of the Church of England; and that, in consequence of the said act, the Members of the Church of Scotland, holding British offices, civil or military, or receiving, as British subjects, any salary, fee, or wages, from or under His Majesty, or by authority derived from him, have been supposed liable to the penalties and forfeitures contained in the said statute, unless they receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, according to the usage of the Church of England.

4thly, That as this construction of the act constitutes a manifest inequality between the Members of the two Established Churches of Great Britain, is injurious to the morals of the people of Scotland, and has a tendency to weaken and undermine the Church of Scotland, it is the duty of the General Assembly, as the guardians of the religious establishment of Scotland, to take every legal and constitutional mode, and to embrace the earliest proper opportunity to obtain effectual relief from the grievances arising from the said act of the Parliament of England, commonly called the Test Act, as affecting the Members of this National Church.

It was then moved, and unanimously agreed to, "That a Committee of this Assembly shall now be appointed, with instructions to take the earliest proper opportunity to obtain redress of the grievances stated in the resolutions which the Assembly have adopted, by every legal and constitutional mode which they shall judge to be most effectual." And a Committee was appointed accordingly, who are to report to next Assembly. Sir Henry Moncreiff appointed Convener.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 28. 1790. *Sess.* 8.

Sederunt.

The Committees for revising the Commission record, *&c.* appointed to meet, and report to-morrow.

The report of the Committee for classing returns to overtures given in and read.

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A Committee appointed to take into consideration the amendments made on the overture respecting the licensing of Probationers, by such Presbyteries as have sent returns to the same, and to adopt such of them as may appear to them to be proper, and to lay their report before next Assembly. Dr Greive appointed Convener.

The overture respecting the ordination of Elders read, and ordered to be retransmitted. See Printed Acts, No. VI.

The report of the Committee on the overtures respecting the improvement of glebes, given in and read.—The Assembly appointed their Principal Clerk to cause the report to be added at the end of the printed Acts of this Assembly, under the following title, *Proposals for the Melioration of Glebes, submitted by the General Assembly to the Consideration of the Church.* See at the end of the Printed Acts.

Report of the Committee for drawing up regulations for forms of Commissions, ordered to be given in to-morrow.

A Committee appointed to reconsider the report and overtures respecting the augmentation of stipends, with instructions to digest and ripen a plan of general augmentation of the parochial stipends, and to use all prudent and proper means to learn the sentiments of the Members of the Church, and of the landed proprietors in Scotland, and to report on this subject to next Assembly; and Sir Henry Moncreiff appointed Convener of the Committee.

The Committee on the Horse Tax renewed, and appointed to report to next Assembly.

The Committee on new applications appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Agreed to take up the cause anent the schoolmaster of Langholm to-morrow.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 29. 1790. *Sess.* 9.

Sederunt.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 568 : 5 : 2 $\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 68 : 5 : 2 $\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonering and discharging him of the sum of L. 254 : 11 : 8½ Sterling, disbursed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 10 : 16 : 8½ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, Sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonering and discharging him of the sum of L. 27 : 5 : 3 Sterling, disbursed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 8 : 10 : 3 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

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Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 11, 6s. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphingston Balfour, stationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10 : 6 : 9½ Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Mr Dalzel represented, that he had found a note of money among the late Dr Drysdale's papers, amounting to L. 5, 10s. which appears to be the money taken notice of Assembly 1783, *Sess. ult.* as a balance of the Window and House Tax money in the said Dr Drysdale's hands: And he also represented, That Mr Cairncross had put into his hands an account due to the said Mr Cairncross respecting this business, amounting to L. 3 : 18 : 2, and therefore wished for the direction of the Assembly thereanent.—The Assembly authorised Mr Dalzel to pay Mr Cairncross the amount of the foresaid account out of the above mentioned sum, and to keep the balance in his own hands.

The Committee on the state of the public funds appointed to meet again to-morrow.

The report of the visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed Acts, No. IV. The report of the Committee for naming the Members of THE COMMISSION of this ASSEMBLY, and preparing instructions to them, given in and approved of.—The Assembly added thereto Dr Thomas Hardy, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, and also all those whose Commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty register given in and read, the conduct of the Managers approved of; and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed Acts, No. V. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them:—And the meeting for fixing the annual Scheme appointed to be upon the second Thursday of July, in place of the second Thursday of August, with power to such Members of the Committee as shall be present, to adjourn.

Upon a motion, the Assembly recommended to the attention of the Committee on the Royal Bounty, at their first meeting, to give such reward to Mr William Murray, *jun.* writer, as they shall judge proper, for his trouble in examining and sorting the records and papers belonging to the Royal Bounty, at the time when the Committee were investigating the whole business from the beginning.

The Synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Perth and Stirling ordered to be attested.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

The Procurator reported, That in obedience to the appointment of last General Assembly, application had been made to the Lord

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Lord Clerk Regiſter, and the other Truſtees for the new General Regiſter-houſe, for a room in which the records of the Church might be kept, under the cuſtody of the Clerk thereof; and that the ſaid truſtees have given a room ſufficient for the purpoſe accordingly.—He therefore moved, That the thanks of the Venerable Aſſembly be given to Lord Frederick Campbell, Lord Clerk Regiſter, and to the other truſtees, for their polite and ready compliance with the requeſt of the Aſſembly; and that the Moderator be deſired to communicate the ſame to his Lordſhip:—Which motion the Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to.—And upon a motion from a Member, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the chair to the Procurator, for his diligence and attention in this matter.—And the Aſſembly appointed the Procurator and the Principal Clerk as a Committee, to get the room in the Regiſter Office properly fitted up for receiving the books and papers of the Church, and authoriſed the Procurator to pay the neceſſary expence thereof, out of the public funds of the Church.

The report of the Committee reſpecting the election of Members of Aſſembly, given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

The report of the truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, *&c.*, containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood for his fidelity, attention, and prudence, in the management of the fund.

A petition from the Preſbytery of Zetland, reſpecting a diſtemper among the ſheep in that country, was given in and read. The Aſſembly appointed the Moderator, accompanied by one or two Members, to lay the petition before the Lord Advocate, and requeſt his interpoſition in favour of the petitioners, in the manner which may appear to his Lordſhip moſt effectual.—And alſo appointed the Clerk of Aſſembly to write a letter to the Moderator of the Preſbytery of Zetland, informing them of what the Aſſembly had done in this affair.

An appeal by the Preſbytery of Langholm, againſt two ſeveral ſentences of the Synod of Dumfries, reſpecting Mr John Telfer, ſchoolmaſter of Langholm. Parties were heard, firſt, upon the juriſdiction of the Synod; and the Aſſembly, without a vote, found, that the appeal from the Preſbytery of Langholm to the Synod of Dumfries, was competent: Therefore they affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Dumfries, finding, that they had a right to review the whole procedure of the Preſbytery in this cauſe.—The conſideration of the other appeal from the ſentence of the Synod, reſpecting the merits of the cauſe, delayed till Monday.

Upon a motion, the Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock.

Adjournment.

Monday,

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Monday, May 31. 1790. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

It was moved and unanimouſly agreed to, That the Procurator be authoriſed to pay to Mr William Murray, *jun.* writer, the ſum of L. 10, 10 s. Sterling, out of the public funds of the Church, as a compenſation for the trouble he has already had in arranging and making an inventory of the public papers of the Church; and Mr Murray appointed to proceed further in this buſineſs.

The report of the truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, *&c.* again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Liſt of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications thereanent, given in and read, and approved of without a vote.

The report of the Committee reſpecting the election of Members of Aſſembly, rejected *ſimpliciter.*

The cauſe reſpecting Mr Telfer, ſchoolmaſter of Langholm, referred to the Commiſſion.

And all other cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, likewiſe referred to the Commiſſion.

A Committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the Aſſembly, and to his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

See Printed Acts, No. VII. Act appointing next meeting of the Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, ſinging of pſalms, and pronouncing the bleſſing.

FINIS.

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